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Lovin' La Vigna, bistro with a short, sweet menu but long wine list

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'Buzz' scolded for airing Osang accusing Jolo of beating up her daughter

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SC rejects TRO to stop ARMM polls

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Zuce's 'victim' prefers murderers to liars

By TJ Burgonio

[illegible] of Michaelangelo Zuce's alleged "victims" said he preferred to lie in the mountains of marble excavation than face former San Fernando,

6,000 doctors studying to be nurses; DOH alarmed

By Christine V. Figueroa

THE BRAIN DRAIN in the country's medical profession has gone from bad to worse.

Around 6,000 licensed doctors are now enrolled in nursing schools, ostensibly to prepare for lucrative jobs abroad, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said yesterday.

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Zuce: GMA saw payoffs

Solons try to shake credibility

THE INCREDIBLE HULK? Michaelangelo Zuce bares large as "resource person" as the resumption of the Senate hearing on "jueteng" on Wednesday.

By Jaime Ladaw Jaculbia

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo could not have been unaware of the distribution of money—allegedly from the wife of an illegal gambling lord—to poll officials meeting in her home before last year's election, Michaelangelo Zuce said yesterday.

Testifying for five hours before a Senate inquiry, the former Palace operative said the handing out of envelopes, each containing P50,000, to regional election directors and supervisors even caused a commotion while Mrs Arroyo was still in her house.

The 30-year-old Zuce outlined Monday and provided the first eyewitness account of the supposed meeting in Mrs Arroyo's residence at the Forest La Vista subdivision in Quezon City in January 2004—four months before the May elections.

He said Ms Arroyo appealed to the election officials for help in the balloting. After she left the gather-

NO LONGER in the ICU, Jun-Ho "Jeng" Rubio is now confined to a suite at the Medical City, Pasig, where his [illegible] is photographed by his stepmother holding his statement denying the allegations of his former technical assistant Zuce as "falsehoods" and "wild accusations."

Only child of painter is 'good pa, jealous lover'

By Gerry Lirio

FOR ALL the many things said about him, former Malacañang employee and now whistle blower Rodolfo Noel "Lenlen" Zuce is a good father and husband, albeit a "jealous lover," according to friends of his wife Heidi.

"Lenlen is a good provider, this [Heidi] never spoke ill of him on that aspect," one of them, who requested anonymity, said.

He and Heidi became friends while waiting to finish their children who are studying at the Philippine Christian University on Taft Avenue in Manila.

Palace claims 170 congressmen signed to crush impeach bid

By Christine O. Avendaño and Philip C. Tubeza

MALACAÑANG appears to have the numbers to prevent the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo from being sent to the Senate for trial.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday said he was told that 170 members of the House of Representatives had signed a paper that they were against Ms Arroyo's impeachment.

Ermita said the information had given the Palace some assurance that the impeachment complaint would die a natural death in the House.

At a news briefing, Ermita said that if 170 lawmakers were against the impeachment complaint, 66 House members would be left to endorse the complaint, not enough to get the required votes of 79.

Speaker Jose de Venecia gave a bigger number of House members against the impeachment complaint.

In a television talk show the other night, De Venecia said he and Antipolo City Rep. Rodolfo Plaza had obtained the "firm" commitments of 189 of the 236-member House to prevent the complaint from being sent to the Senate, "whatever the outcome" to be presented before the justice committee.

Only 93 House members, sensitive to the minority, have so far endorsed the impeachment case against the President. But the Judiciary of impeachment to be transmitted to the Senate, three-fourths of the votes, or 177 lawmakers, must be supported by 79 legislators or 1/3 of the members of the House.

The 93 lawmakers filed an amended impeachment case in the House on July 25, accusing Ms Arroyo of cheating and of bringing her way to victory in the 2004 presidential election, benefiting from gambling payoffs, hiding $4 billion in the United States and responsibility for the murder of activists.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said the number that De Venecia had cited was only a "hypothetical calculation" and not a firm estimate of how the majority would vote.

"The number . . . was based on the existing signatures in the complaint as endorsed in the House committee on justice," Nograles said.

Undecided are soul-searching

By Fe Zaldarriaga

MALACAÑANG can't be too sure.

The cabinet members of the House of Representatives, Cynthia Villar, appears to be on top of waves of congressmen. They remain undecided on the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Along with the undecided, Villar is tried something and analyzing the pros and cons of the case.

The wife of Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. has been asking her constituents at random what they would like her to do. So far, the feedback she's been getting is for her to affix her signature to the impeachment complaint.

The people of Las Piñas "are just like most residents of Metro Manila who want the President out," Villar said.

But in last year's polls, Ms Arroyo lost to 14 cities and three municipalities in Metro Manila, and won only in the Muntinlupa and Las Piñas

Many lawmakers have not yet decided on whether to sign or not because "there is no need to decide at the moment," Villar said.

"When the deadline comes,

Arrest order out for Garci

By Michael Lim Ubac and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

VOMIT is look for him "in the ends of the earth," the House of Representatives yesterday ordered the arrest of former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano after he ignored its summons to appear.

The House is also set to ask the Department of Foreign Affairs to cancel Garcillano's passport, and the Bureau of Immigration to issue a hold-departure order against him.

The lawmakers issued a warrant for his arrest as they wound up their joint inquiry into the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal, which has spawned the filing of impeachment charges against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

With one objection, the plenary voted, the warrant at 5:55 p.m., following a motion by Deputy Majority Leader Edcel Lagman.

"In the ends of the earth, we'll look for him," said Rep. Gilbert Remulla, chair of the House committee on public information.

BURNING Air France Airbus A340 flying in from Paris slides down a slope after skidding off the runway upon landing at Toronto's Pearson International Airport amid pouring rain, lightning and thunder.

JOYFUL reunion for a survivor of the crash where all of the 309 passengers and crew members made it to safety.

Miracle in the rain: All 309 passengers survive

TORONTO—"It's a miracle."

All 309 passengers and crew aboard a doomed Air France jet survived a dramatic runway crash by sliding down escape chutes from the burning plane and scrambling up a ravine during a pounding thunderstorm.

The plane skidded off the runway at Toronto's Pearson International Airport after landing at around 4 p.m. (2000 GMT) Sunday in a heavy rain shot in succession by lightning and strong winds, said Steve Shaw, a vice president of the Greater Toronto Airport Authority.

The Airbus A340 did down a slope into a wooded area that runs along Highway 401, Canada's busiest thoroughfare.

"It's nothing short of a miracle," Canada's Transport Minister Jean Lapierre said after learning everyone on board Air France Flight No. 358 from Paris had survived.

Air France said 12 people were treated for minor injuries, although Shaw said 43 were hurt. Passengers said some of the injured had broken arms and legs.

The first sign of trouble came minutes before landing when the pilot aborted an attempt to land the plane because of the storm and powerful winds. About a minute before the plane landed, as it approached the airport for a second time, the lights in the cabin went out, said passenger Olivier Dubois.

"Just before touching ground, it was all black in the plane, there was no more light, nothing," he said.

As the wheels touched down, passengers—their nerves frayed by the darkness inside and outside the cabin and flashes of lightning—burst into applause.

But then the jet skidded on landing, skidded off the runway and burst into flames, passengers

A3
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2004

WEATHER FORECAST

LUZON: Intermittent rain will fall over the country's most populous area with moderate to occasionally rough seas. The rest of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will be mostly fair with isolated rain showers and moderate seas. Quezon City and Metro Manila will be cloudy with rain.

Second FRONTPAGE

Saguisag escapes contempt, gets slap on the wrist instead

By Nelson F. Flores

THE SANDIGANBAYAN Special Division yesterday admonished lawyer Rene Saguisag for making statements that undermined the credibility of the anti-graft court and raising allusions to media against the country's judicial system.

The reminder came after an honorary army quoted Saguisag as saying that the Sandiganbayan Special Division was programmed to convict deposed President Joseph Estrada in the plunder charges before the ouster.

Justice Francisco Villaruz told Saguisag in open court to be more "circumspect" in making any statements "so as not to undermine the confidence of the people in an institution known as the anti-graft court."

He said that even if Saguisag did not agree with the creation of the Special Division "it is not right for you (Saguisag) to say that the special court was programmed to convict President Estrada."

The Supreme Court, to cut on basic decisions, had created the Special Division exclusively to hear the plunder case against Estrada.

Justice Teresita de Castro, the division chair, said the special division was created by the Supreme Court on the Sandiganbayan's recommendation.

The high tribunal did not jus ta one order the constitution of a special division, its creation was based on merits, particularly the rising number of retiring justices, De Castro said.

No evil intentions

"It is unfair to ascribe evil intentions on the Supreme Court when it created the special division," De Castro said.

Saguisag answered that in claiming that the Sandiganbayan Special Division was programmed to convict Estrada, he was not alluding to any perfidious suggestion.

What he was questioning was the "the anomalous creation of the Sandiganbayan special court," he said.

Saguisag said there was no perception of his client and he supported Estrada's belief.

"I have been saying this since the beginning and I can no longer take back what I said. Besides, the statement excluded injustice is too little a price to pay and I am prepared for that," Saguisag said.

He said this was the third time in the country's history that a special tribunal was created to try an individual. He said the first two tribunals were military courts, which convicted the accused — Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita and Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. — despite the weak evidence against them.

Saguisag accused the Supreme Court of "dishonest representation" when it stated what he claimed was a non-existent petition to justify the creation of a special tribunal to hear the plunder case against Estrada. He said the defense had never petitioned the high court to create a special division.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said Saguisag seemed to have forgotten that the defense lawyers themselves had requested for the creation of the Special Division.

Aside from De Castro and Villaruz, the other members of the Special Division are Justices Oscar Herrera, Rodolfo Fernandez, Ma. Cristina Estrada and Godofredo Legaspi, as alternate members.

UNDER GUARD

Fully armed policemen stand guard among church goers at the Redemptorist Church in Baclaran as police and military forces raised the security alert against terrorist attacks nationwide. Among those placed under tight security are churches and market places.

There's no stopping ARMM polls; SC refuses to issue TRO

By Armand N. Nocum

THERE is no more stopping the holding of elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao on Aug. 9 after the Supreme Court refused from issuing a temporary restraining order against it, on two Mindanao congressmen had requested.

Ismael Khan, the head of the SC information office, said Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. was on the agenda of the high court's en banc session Tuesday, "but it did not issue a TRO."

"Unless the SC calls for a special session and issues a TRO, the ARMM elections will push through," Khan said.

"If there's no special session, the petition will likely become moot and academic because the next session of the court will be on Aug. 9, a day after the ARMM elections," he said.

Deputy House Speaker Gloria Dalipuda-an and party list Rep. Mujib S. Hataman had petitioned the court to stop the elections, citing fears that the Commission on Elections may not be capable of keeping the elections clean.

The two assailed the alleged unconstitutionality of the law setting the date for the elections and the huge expense incurred by the government in the ARMM polls.

'Birds and bees'

In his 30-page petition, the Hataman pointed to alleged widespread election irregularities in past ARMM elections, noting how in ARMM, the "votes can exceeded that persons's (ARMM) population."

"Here, a plumber named and affirmed the explanation that the birds and bees are the reason why there might have voted as well," said Hataman.

"The ARMM areas have normally figured in the cite of alleged election rigging as shown by an audio tape showing the President allegedly taking part in an attempt to rig the elections.

Respondents in the complaint were Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Senior Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin.

Subpoenas and Hataman also asked the provisions of Republic Act 9189 giving the ARMM elections on Aug. 9, saying this violated constitutional provisions on the conduct of synchronized national and local elections on the second Monday of May every three years.

The Commission has accredited about 65 foreigners to observe the ARMM elections next Monday.

US delegation

The United States is sending the largest delegation with 22 members, including eight mid-level embassy officials and four officials from the International Foundation for Election Systems.

Other foreign observers, mostly diplomats include 11 Canadians, three Britons, two Australians, and each from New Zealand and Malaysia.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said the presence of the foreign observers will help ensure that the ARMM elections would be free, honest and fair in the eyes of the international community.

On Monday, some two million voters in the ARMM will elect a governor, a vice governor and 24 members of a regional legislative assembly.

The Comelec said it would entertain applications for election observer status from other Muslim countries and the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) is handling accessory for the ARMM.

PNP monitoring

Under Resolution No. 7027 dated July 15, Comelec allowed foreigners, both working in the government or the private sector, to observe the conduct of elections in the five provinces and one chartered city of the ARMM.

The Philippine National Police is sending five police generals from Camp Crame to monitor the ARMM elections, according to Senior Supt. Rene Bacay, deputy director of the national police directorate for operations.

Bacay said the police generals, to be called "national police liaison officers," would be in place by Friday.

He reminded police officers in the region to stay neutral.

"They should remain apolitical. Their only participation should be when they are casting their ballots," he said.

Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, the PNP spokesperson, said the situation in the region remained calm, with no reports of violence so far.

Aside from 6,400 policemen assigned in the region, operatives from the Regional Mobile Groups from neighboring regions would be deployed in the ARMM, Bataoil said.

No serious threats

ARMM regional director Sukarno Dilidili said no serious threats from armed groups are expected.

He said eight candidates are running for governor while two candidates are running for vice governor.

"This is our time to show we can have a very credible and peaceful election," he said.

Nocon said the following police generals would be deployed in the five ARMM provinces: Chief Supt. Edwin Marilo Jr. for Maguindanao; Chief Supt. Elmer dela Paz for Lanao del Sur; Chief Supt. Lucito Alinsuyo for Tawi-Tawi; Chief Supt. Romeo Tayag for Basilan and Chief Supt. Cherlito Gaspi Miranda for Sulu.

A militant Muslim group yesterday said the ARMM elections should not be held after peace negotiations between the government and the rebel group Moro Islamic Liberation Front have "redefined the formation of a new government body in Mindanao."

The Moro Christian People's Alliance said there have so far changes in the structure and functions of a Mindanao government that would "truly represent" the Muslim people before the ARMM elections. With reports from Antonio Antaj, Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and Jocelyn R. Ky

SC lifts tariffs on Portland cement

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SUPREME Court yesterday stopped the Department of Trade and Industry from further imposing tariffs on imported Portland cement, saying it was illegal.

In a 61-page decision, the SC said the DTI can no longer enforce such "safety measures" which were earlier sought by local cement manufacturers to protect the industry from unfair competition posed by cheap cement imports.

In a decision penned by Associate Justice Dante Tinga, the SC in banc also lauded the DTI secretary from granting an extension in the imposition of the safeguard measures, as requested by local cement companies.

The ruling affirmed the July 6, 2004 decision of the high court's second division voiding the provisional measure by the DTI after imposing a P10.00 tariff for every 40-kilogram bag of cement since Nov. 7, 2001 up to the present.

In denying the motions for reconsideration of DTI and the local cement manufacturers, the court cited the provisions of R.A. No. 8800, or the Safeguard Measures Act (SMA), which provides for the manner of imposition of emergency measures, including tariffs, to protect domestic industries from increased imports that could hurt local industries.

The high court specifically cited Section 5 of the SMA's provision that "the Secretary shall apply a general safeguard measure upon a positive final determination of the (Tariff) Commission" that importation of a product is hurting the local industry.

"It is evident from the text of Section 5 that the power for a positive final determination for the Tariff Commission that a product is being imported into the country in increased quantities... so as to be a substantial cause of serious injury or threat to the domestic industry," the SC said.

The SC noted that despite the findings of the Tariff Commission that there was no threat of injuries as feared by local cement manufacturers, the DTI secretary still imposed the safeguard measures.

"Southeast in the SMA does it state that the DTI secretary may impose general safeguard measures without a positive final determination by the Tariff Commission, in that the DTI secretary may reverse or even reverse the factual determination made by the Tariff Commission," the high court said.

Besides, the SC noted that DTI and the local cement manufacturers do not challenge the constitutionality of the SMA.

Magazine editor gets death threat in wreath

By Ma-an Papa

AN EDITOR of Mindanao magazine yesterday claimed to have received a death threat on Tuesday night, presumably for stories critical of the military.

In a statement sent to the Inquirer, Mindanao Monitor managing editor Gloria Gloria said a wreath of flowers meant for the dead was delivered to her residence in Davao City at about 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The wreath read:

"Condolence from your loving friends."

Gloria said the dead was "meant to scare the family."

"While we know that threats come with our job, we do not take this lightly," Mindanao editor-in-chief Modesto Ulog said in a statement.

"By letting the public know of this incident, we hope to get the best protection for Ms Gloria and Mindanao," she said.

Gloria said the delivery boy told her that a man in his 30s and riding a black car had bought the wreath from their flower shop on Bonifacio Ave.

The man claimed to be an employee of the company where Gloria unemployed and instructed the delivery boy to take the wreath to two addresses. Gloria's old address appearing on her driver's call phone bill, and her family home.

The man, who gave his address as "Metro Manila," also said the delivery was a small gift and not a funeral wreath. He gave specific instructions on the delivery but the first address was not to be found at the first address "where she earns," the wreath should be delivered to the second address.

Gloria's name remains another death with the military in the Mindanao's July 31 rally, she wrote that the Intelligence division of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Bantay-based International Federation of Journalists issued a separate statement expressing concern over the threat and urged the government to investigate.

"The incident shows that the extremists are still at it, trying to instill fear in the hearts of journalists," the IFJ-SP said in a statement.

More than 55 journalists have been slain in the Philippines in the past 19 years, including six this year alone. The continuing number of killings has prompted the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists to describe the Philippines as the world's "most murderous" country for reporters.

IFJ president Christopher Warren said the government must stand up for journalist's rights and investigate the threat.

"Considering the terrible record of reckless and deadly attacks against journalists in the Philippines, the government has a duty to act on the serious of death threats against journalists and investigate these incidents," he said in a statement.

NDF leaders to lose immunity, face arrest

ABOUT 97 National Democratic Front members now face arrest after the government announced yesterday that it was suspending indefinitely their immunity guarantees, citing the NDF's "unilateral abandonment of the peace negotiations."

Because of the NDF decision to back out of the peace talks, the immunity for rebel leaders, including Jose Ma. Sison and Luis Jalandoni, who played roles in the negotiations has been lifted, said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Ermita said the government peace panel would officially serve notice of the termination of immunity or the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (Jasig), to the NDF yesterday. It would be in effect 30 days after receipt of the notice.

If the NDF were to receive the notice tomorrow, Aug. 4, by Sept. 4 or 5 the authorities could arrest those NDF members who are in the military order of battle or have arrest warrants issued against them, Ermita explained.

It takes 2 to talk

"It takes two sides to talk peace and if one side has withdrawn, there is no more justification for the Jasig, which guarantees the free and unobstructed movement of 97 members of the NDF in furtherance of the peace talks," he said.

The two sides had signed an agreement on safety and immunity guarantees that allowed the NDF members to move freely around the country without fear of arrest during negotiations.

At a news briefing, Ermita said the government viewed the NDF as having pulled out of the peace negotiations after the statements made in the media by Jalandoni, the NDF chief negotiator, which he noted came at the "height of destabilization" moves against the Arroyo administration.

"Abandonment of the talks is an abandonment of the people," said Ermita, but added that the government was urging the NDF to return to the negotiating table.

The NDF, the political wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, last month said there was no longer any sense pursuing peace talks with President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is under threat of impeachment over allegations she rigged the May 2004 presidential vote.

'Vague' position

Jalandoni said the rebels would prefer to wait for a new administration to be in place before resuming the peace process.

According to Ermita, the government peace panel headed by Nieves Confesor had recommended the suspension of Jasig.

Told that NDF leaders had clarified that they were just postponing the talks and that there was no intention of withdrawing, Ermita said the government should take "some definite positions" because its counterparts were making its stand "vague."

He said the NDF leaders were probably doing this because they were concerned about the effects on their people, particularly those listed in the Jasig.

Ermita said things could not just stay "in limbo," and chided NDF leaders for their penchant for announcing their positions to media rather than communicating them to the government peace panel.

Asked to clarify his statement urging the NDF to return to the negotiating table, Ermita said: "It is one way of saying that we have not totally closed the door because as much as possible we want peace in the Philippines."

Asked whether the government would seek the expulsion of Sison and other NDF leaders in the Netherlands where they are based, Ermita said this has been always been the government's position.

He said the government had filed cases against Sison two years ago. But Ermita said he had learned that the Dutch government would not likely agree to a Philippine request to expel Sison.

In his statement, Ermita said the suspension of the immunity agreement would have no effect on the provisions of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.

"The government shall continue to uphold human rights and democratic principles as enshrined in the Constitution and universally accepted standards," he said. *Christine Avendaño*

Ka Roger laughs off threat on DOJ chief

LUCENA CITY — Communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal had a good laugh over the claim of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez that a New People's Army hit squad plans to assassinate him.

"That's not true. Political assassination is not one of NPA works, much less with the kind of Mr. Gonzalez. He is now considered politically dead. He does not have political hearings anymore. He is not worthy of our Red fighters' time," Rosal said in a cell phone interview.

He added that with Gonzalez' penchant for sowing intrigues, deception and loose talks as one of the key officials of the crumbling GMA regime, he was even more beneficial to the rebels.

"Why should we kill him?" Rosal said.

But the Philippine National Police does not find the alleged death threats funny.

"We will coordinate closely with the security officer of the DOJ for the acceptable security coverage of the secretary," PNP spokesperson Leopoldo Bataoil said in a text message yesterday.

Gonzalez himself announced on Tuesday that communist assassins had been deployed to kill him, citing a four-page report from the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Despite Rosal's denial, Bataoil said the PNP would take the threat seriously.

"CPP-NPA leaders usually say something but do otherwise being the master of deception," he said. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

PULSE ASIA SURVEY

GMA rating dips further

By Norman Bordadora

NOTWITHSTANDING favorable reviews from the international community, including one in which a US business magazine dubbed her the world's fourth most powerful woman, President Macapagal-Arroyo has received her lowest approval rating yet from Filipinos.

Ms Arroyo's approval rating—already at a record low of 25 percent in June—further dropped to just 19 percent in July, an independent polling firm reported yesterday.

Pulse Asia Inc. said the disapproval rating of the President increased 12 percentage points from 46 percent in June to 58 percent in July.

The polling firm said it conducted the survey from July 2 to July 14 on its own. The survey, covered 1,200 adults and had a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level.

"The political and economic problems that hit the country in the second quarter of 2005 took their toll not only on President Arroyo but also on the other top national government officials and the national administration as a whole," said Ana Maria Tabunda, Pulse Asia executive director.

Tabunda said the political and economic crises resulted in the decline of approval ratings of Vice President Noli de Castro, Senate President Franklin Drilon, Speaker Jose de Venecia and Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

"At present, none of the country's top government officials score a majority approval rating," she said.

Pulse Asia said the decline in approval ratings affected even those who do not support Ms Arroyo in her bid to weather the political crisis.

"The disillusionment is not only with those who support (Ms Arroyo) but with all politicians," said Felipe Miranda, Pulse Asia research director. "While people think all politicians are rotten, what (immediately) comes to their mind is the one in power," he told the Inquirer.

The highest approval rating by far is that of Vice President Noli de Castro with 44 percent, according to results of the survey. De Castro had a 58 percent approval rating just a month before.

The Vice President's disapproval rating went up to 27 percent from 20 percent in June.

The approval rating of Drilon dropped 12 percentage points from a high 51 percent in June to 39 percent in July. Drilon and the Liberal Party, which he chairs, have called on Ms Arroyo to resign.

His disapproval rating also went up nine percentage points, from 17 percent in June to 26 percent in July.

The approval rating of De Venecia, one of Ms Arroyo's staunchest allies, fell from 40 percent in June to 31 percent in July, while that of Davide's dropped from 41 percent to 31 percent.

Asked if the low approval ratings of the top officials showed a general distaste for politics, Miranda said: "That has long been a sentiment of the public."

The survey was conducted right about the time when Ms Arroyo's legitimacy and integrity were questioned with the resignations of key Cabinet officials, quit calls from erstwhile allies Corazon Aquino and Drilon.

It was also the time when a mammoth anti-Arroyo demonstration was staged on Ayala Avenue in Makati City, the country's financial district.

The survey showed that controlling inflation and reducing poverty were the top two most urgent national concerns of Filipinos.

ENTERTAINMENT

Julius Bautista O. Villarde

Producer says metro film fest 'still taking public for a ride'

By Marinel R. Cruz

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

"THERE'S no reason why we have shortened the time intervening of the films festival. With the kind of movies that are bound to be showcased [December], this should be called Metro Manila Christmas Festival," independent film producer Joji Alonzo told Inquirer Entertainment on Monday.

Alonzo was one of three movie producers who has "put their film" a complaint against the Metro Manila Film Festival selection committee. She claimed the committee excluded its movie entry to "favor certain producers" over the others.

"This year, five of the seven movies are of the fantasy-horror-comedy genre. What do you expect from such movies?" said Alonzo in a phone interview. The two others involved ... are always consistent of everything, not dominated by one producer, one director, or one genre."

In a letter to festival-overall chair Rosario Fernando, who is also chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority, Alonzo cited four of the eight movies last year "were productions of the Metrowide group," referring to Regal Entertainment Inc. Inc. (LIE) Metrowide.

Three of those films were made by Joel Lamangan, who is set to direct "Ina, Anak ... Mo" (Regal Entertainment) and "Nimfas Ko Ding Kalingga Ka" (Good Harvest, a joint company of Regal).

Loopholes

The two other entries from Metrowide this year are "Mulat, Rafflo and Red" (Regal Entertainment) and "Milabesa" (Metrowide's co-production with OMA Films).

Alonzo lamented: "Gone are the days when people looked forward to watching the best among the best in film festivals. I miss watching movies like 'Kisapmata,' 'Itanong Mo Kay Bathala,' 'Ang Pagdadalaga,' 'Pepot Artista' and 'Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang.' People keep saying the industry is dying. How do we save it unless we're not given enough choices? We all really should help it grow."

In an earlier interview, MMFF executive committee member Wilson Tieng pointed out that loopholes found in the festival's rules and regulations should be plugged to avoid protest.

Last month, Fernando announced that the MMFF had revised its rules. The new rules lifted the limitations to the number of films that a single producer could enter in the festival. They also included "box-office appeal" (40 percent) as a criterion for selecting the Best Picture winner.

Consultation

According to Alonzo, the MMDA recently hosted a consultation assembly with industry people on how to improve the film fest. "[Extended run] we would take into suggestion as consideration, but that the final say would still come from the executive committee. They needn't appear that the committee was open to change. What kind of change?"

Last March 29, the MMFF executive committee, led by Fernando, announced that the festival would be moved to September. The change was expected to give Up to now, the MMFF continues to take the public for a ride."

Indie filmmaker Jeffrey Tarayao also claimed that a Quezon studio was removed in July 2004 for the public screening of Khayati Khan Filipino" in September 2004, "under the auspices of Regal."

"We did friends of Shi Films and Metrowide herself registered for the services of actors Anne Curtis, son-in-law Vhong Navarro, for "Tigers."

"Tigers," starring Angel Locsin and Richard Gutierrez, was one of the four movies labeled as Metrowide.

Ryan knows where his heart lies now

LIKE the true gentleman that he is, Ryan Agoncillo did not introduce when the mother of his ex-girlfriend stunned in public that he had not formally split up with her daughter. Instead, Ryan issued a brief statement saying that he received numerous individuals concerned a long time ago and that he wished they could all just be happy for one another.

He was not defensive at all. He just wants what he found is—evidently not to run places or the same time. Perhaps Ryan's ex did not tell her mom everything. Intermittent mediums are just the just to know.

Ryan would not have gone to the United States with girlfriend Judy Ann Santos had there been talk of another woman. Claimed and his ex, who happens to be in the US, to avoid a possible confrontation. The actor-host was science was close, he had no apprehensions about waterlogging with Judy.

In fact, the cause of his estranged Ryan and Judy's bond all the more. The pictures of this spread says it all. And if this is not enough proof of how blissfully in love they are, watch the couple in "Madaling Ma Kasi" on March 27 only tonight on ABS-CBN. No need for Judy to ask Ryan, "Mahalin mo kaya ako?"

Mateo's baby shoe

My heart goes out to my pal actor Mateo for losing his second baby. I can blame grow up, so when the last one, I felt like my own baby was leaving a baby. We used to call a bit...talking till the wee hours about teenage angst and family problems. She was just her child crazy days but another blood cycle surfaced. Mateo. This baby is mostly ... Happy he's even more.

The baby was named Juan Miguel Estrada. Mateo delivered him by emergency Caesarean section. But mom-elder to hold him for a while before he was pronounced dead. The order is at the Loyola Chapel in

JUDAY and Ryan in this LIFE recently

Charo raps 'The Buzz'

By Nick Vidora

CHARO Santos-Concio, ABS-CBN executive vice president for Entertainment, reprimanded the staff of "The Buzz" for airing live an interview with controversial actress Rosanna Roces' last Sunday, according to sources.

Santos-Concio reportedly felt the interview should have been taped to control the content in which Roces accused John Revilla, son of Sen. Bong Revilla of beating up the actress' daughter, Grace Ibuna.

John, 17, acknowledged, in a text message to Grace, that he had hit her.

The controversial interview was conducted by Kris Aquino, Boy Abunda and Cristy Fermin, moderators of "The Buzz."

Chang's Diary

Aquino was supposedly upset about how the issue was being handled and wanted to stop the interview when she felt it was getting out of hand.

In contrast, a taped interview of Sen. Bong Revilla on the issue was a montage of celebrity tributes. The senator said in the footage, which was shown on the Sunday edition of "The Buzz," that family issues should be discussed in private and not in media.

During Sunday's show, Roces also alleged that John's elder brother Bryan was involved in Ibuna's drug-related death. Ibuna, a drug-related death. Ibuna, was keeping a young woman. Bryan and Revilla had given the woman a beauty parlor and a Toyota Vios.

The actress and Ibuna's sister, Ana, told the show also dragged former Sen. Ramon Revilla into the controversy, stating that the older Revilla had a 16-year-old girlfriend.

Roces is apparently backing a case against the Revillas to go attempt to have her child's last name, Bautista, John's only surname, changed to Antonio Roces" and Grace's last name.

Before Jose Gabriel was born, the Revillas and Roces agreed that the child would have his father's last name, Bautista, in accordance with the revised Family Code of the Philippines.

Ironically, the amendment to the code was penned by the elder Sen. Revilla. Before it was revised, the child would have his father's last name. Therefore, in accordance with the revised Family Code of the Philippines.

Ironically, the amendment to the code was penned by the elder Sen. Revilla. Before it was revised, the child would have his father's last name. Therefore, in accordance with the revised Family Code of the Philippines.

IMO Charo Santos-Concio has her word

AQUINO: Oh, no!

ROCES: Unresponsive

ABS-CBN's official statement

ABS-CBN issued this official statement on Tuesday:

"The network recognizes its responsibility to its audiences and adheres to the accepted framework by the Broadcasters (KBP) Industry standards. The policy and public decency in airing issued. Even prior to MTRCB's calling the network's attention [on] Ms. Rosanna Roces' interview on 'The Buzz,' ABS-CBN Board already ordered [it] upon itself to improve self-regulatory measures and practice self-censorship, among its talent and programs, as per agreement with MTRCB. Ms. Roces' future interviews with the Network will henceforth be pre-taped."

Lowell Ermino C. Feria, II assistant vice president, said the network's decision to air the interview was "based on the information available to the network at the time."

"Subsequent events, however, have exposed some shortcomings in the said decision. Thus, the network has decided to discontinue the airing of the interview," Feria said.

Even an upset Kris reportedly wanted to stop Osang interview

Ibuna was only two years old, John and the rest of the Revillas enjoyed the child's weekend visits to their house. But these visits stopped recently after Grace supposedly got out Ibuna against the Revillas before taking their leave with the child. They also included "box-office appeal" (40 percent) as a criterion for selecting the Best Picture winner.

Grace's pregnancy earlier caused a short-lived scandal. Roces accused her former manager Lolit Solis and former best friend, erstwhile co-star Vilma Santos, of spreading the rumor that Grace was pregnant by Jinggoy Estrada, son of Vice Pres. Erap Estrada.

Roces reportedly demanded her daughter's condition, but eventually admitted late last year that Grace was indeed pregnant by John.

The fight between Roces and Revilla triggered a libel case filed by the doctor against the actress, who allegedly referred to Bello in various media interviews as a quack accused of botching Grace's delivery. The case was supposed to start last month to discuss an out of court settlement, but Roces failed to show up.

Solon is glad 'Great Raid' puts face on RP war vets

HEN. Richard Gordon, co-chair of the World War II 60th Anniversary Philippine Organizing Committee, on Tuesday hailed a Hollywood movie depicting the heroism of Filipino guerrillas and American soldiers in liberating 500 prisoners of war from a Japanese camp in Cabanatuan City during World War II.

A chairman and co-author, Gordon called the film producers to make a special effort to promote the film among 10-day screenings in the United States. It could redeem the attention of the US Congress to the veterans' bill equity bill, Gordon said.

The movie entitled "The Great Raid," to debut on release in the US and will be shown next week in Philippine theaters. Gordon said the film put a face on Filipino veterans of World War II who were still seeking equal recognition with US troops for their role in fighting the Japanese forces in World War II.

Based on the best-selling book "Ghost Soldiers" by Hampton Sides, the film stars Benjamin Bratt, directed by John Dahl and Benjamin Bratt, James Franco, Connie Nielsen, Joseph Fiennes, Mark Consuelos and Gene Montoya.

Producer Bibiji Gaa reportedly requested to Gordon's suggestions with confidence, location and footage for the film.

In an e-mail dated July 26, Gaa said he had assigned two Mexican senior executives to marketing and publicity—Martha Montero and Pablo Fonseca—to oversee world wide promotions.

AWARD-WINNING Pinoy actor Cesar Montano in "The Great Raid"

Why some new filmmakers' movies don't quite work

OK section a lot about the good films and positive results of last month's Cinemadrome indie film festival. Today, let's focus on the effort that didn't quite make the grade in terms of quality and pertinence, hopefully to come up with lessons that will benefit other new filmmakers who will be trying their luck at next year's festival.

To my mind, four of the nine full-length movies that were produced for the film fest suffered from problems that prevented them from ending up as creditable productions. Some of these unwelcome and unjust hard knocks are evident if judged all levels of the competition, so it's also disappointing to see those failings translate their full potential.

What were some of the lethal flaws that undermined these movies' potential? First, lack of directorial experience, misadjudication and editing errors.

Some people are simply better scriptwriters than directors. They excel in the creative process. They excel in the ability to write the good points in their scripts so that they are fully realized, not just on paper, but on the big screen.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

At directors, they should know which scenes to highlight, and which to play lightly, or even eliminate for the purpose of clearer storytelling. They should also remind themselves to avoid repetitions, or saying pretty much the same thing, in their movies.

The repetitiveness results to yet another common problem: excessive length. Some new filmmakers think it will redeem a movie that is edited less and is half hours long. They forget that many famous films from days run for only 90 minutes.

As directors, they shouldn't fall in love with their material so much that they keep having their audience sit for hour with it. Suggestion and insinuation are better than relentless narration.

To make better movies, self-absorbed filmmakers should remind themselves that they're in the service of their audience, not themselves. In, brevity, clarity, accessibility and empathy are the cinematic virtues they should do their darndest to acquire.

Also, avoid long, languid, esoteric and symbolic sequences that are more pretty than virtuous. New directors should assess the importance of editing to energize their work, and ruthlessly use an footage that, while truly lovely, impedes the development of the story they tell.

They should also have a keener sense of the requisites of business. Filmmaking While indie movies don't require star value, you should at least choose for your leads someone who don't turn your audience off.

Don't use people just because they're your friends, or are readily available to you. Cast on the role requires, period.

Finally, new filmmakers should realize that, when they get to the full length mode, they can no longer play around and entertain themselves with their private notions and obsessions. Feature-length filmmaking is one area in so most public and rigorous, and borderless dilettantism in this form a lot of growing up to do.

> Some people are simply better scriptwriters than directors

'The Emperor's New Clothes'

Repertory Philippines and the City of Makati present the children's musical "The Emperor's New Clothes" starting Aug. 6 at Carmelcraft 3. The production is directed by Joy Virata and choreographed by Jaime del Prado.

The well-known tale by Hans Christian Andersen has been brought to the stage with book and lyrics by Jim Eiler, and music by Eiler and Jeanne Sings. The musical adaptation tells the age-old tale of a vain emperor who learns to be less elegant and beautiful clothes. He changes clothes almost every hour!

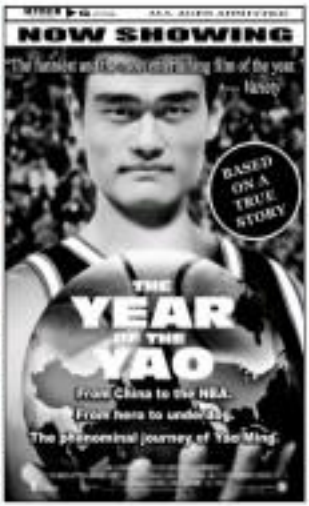
Word about his obsession spreads beyond his kingdom, and two con-men, Mr. Stitch and Mr. Sew, decide to take advantage of it. They promise the emperor with a special gift — an exquisitely beautiful "magic" suite of clothes, invisible to all but the wise viewer!

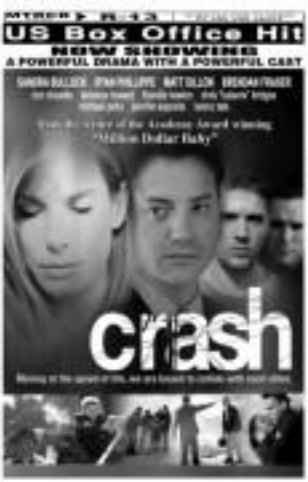
Of course, the gift doesn't come for free. In exchange, the con men ask for a bag of gold. Will the emperor and his followers discover the fantasy real plan? Call 997-8739 or 891-0999.

'Guilty or Innocent'

Discovery Channel will telecast an 18-hour series, "Guilty or Innocent?," starting tomorrow, Aug. 10 at 9 p.m. Every episode takes viewers on a journey of discovery as cases already settled in court are used on the screen.

The reality-based series takes the audience from courtroom to double about whether justice was served in each case. At each trial, some said beyond reasonable. But the question now is serious doubt as suspected legal arguments investigate and build evidence for appeals or pleas to reopen the case.





QUIRKY DUET ...in offbeat England, Comedians Mark Lucas and David Williams again dispense quick wit and dark humor in the award-winning series, "Little Britain," Sundays at 10 p.m. on Star World. Season 2 builds on characters introduced earlier and throws in a few more wrinkles, including a new friend for the inseparable Emily.

6,000 doctors studying to be nurses; DOH alarmed

From page A1

The number is more than double the 2,000 doctors studying to be caregivers last year, Duque said.

Other professionals, too

Not only doctors are turning a blind eye to working abroad as nurses. Other professionals like accountants, engineers and even lawyers have also been shifting to nursing, the official said, citing information from the Commission on Higher Education.

Duque said the Department of Health was now coordinating with Congress for a law that would require medical graduates to work for a specific period in the Philippines before leaving for further studies or settling abroad.

A DOH national working group was considering the possibility of setting the requirement at one or two years, as proposed by some lawmakers and medical students, the official said.

"It is important to draft a bill and have it certified urgent (by the President) to address the exposition of doctors," he said.

DUQUE: Records alarm

Speaking at the same conference, Dr. Rhogelio Bonilla, PMAI vice president, warned that merely putting a legal limit to keep medical professionals in the country might only encourage students from wanting to become doctors.

At it is, she said there had been a steady decline in the number of enrollees in medical schools while some institutions had even been forced to close down.

"We have to make it attractive for them to stay in the country," she argued.

Incentive system

Dalilla, who is also president of the Eye Bank Foundation, suggested that the government come up with an attractive incentive system to convince health professionals from staying in the Philippines was not such a bad idea.

One way is to expand the government's health insurance program, especially in the provinces, she said. This way, doctors won't be personally left to charity work for patients in the provinces.

Through Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (Philhealth), a specialized collection program headed by Duque, medical expenses, including professional fees, are subsidized.

Tax breaks

Another option is to provide tax breaks for hospitals, especially those based in the provinces where people usually have no easy access to health services, Padilla suggested.

"Our doctors need to earn a living as well," she said.

Sense of patriotism

Duque said he was open to the proposals, adding that Medicarding would have to play a big role in keeping doctors in the country through incentives.

But in the end, he said the critical problem of migration is the sense of patriotism.

IN THE KNOW

By PDI Research

At 401 informal survey was claimed last year by the Philippine Medical Association it found that of its 23,854 members, 6 percent or 1,663 doctors were enrolled in nursing.

Of these 900 members who have finished the course, 847 are now abroad. They are a part of at least 1,200 Filipino doctors who left the country last year.

One major reason for leaving is the lucrative pay means abroad — $3,000 to $5,000 — compared to the same hours and doctors here get P150 to P250 and P300 to P600, respectively.

In the United States alone, demand for nurses was estimated to reach 600,000 and 200,000.

Already, the Philippines has close to 300 nursing schools from only 17 in the 1950s and 186 in 1999. Enrollees have jumped 295 percent from almost 28,000 in schoolyear 1999-2000 to over 92,000 in SY 2002-2003.

Miracle in the rain: All 309 passengers survive

From page A1

rescued.

"It happened so quickly; it was a little bit like being in a movie," said Gisela Dunlop of Toronto, who was returning from a vacation in France.

Dunlop said some passengers were given emergency chutes, while others just jumped out of their seats.

"The seats all tipping to go up a hill, it was all mud and we lost our shoes. We were just scrambling, people with children."

Shaking rain, lightning and thunder added to the chaos.

The federal agency Environment Canada had issued a severe weather alert earlier in the day, saying its radar showed a rapidly developing thunderstorm with winds of about 96 kph. There said the airport had been on "full alert" most storms, which indicates potential for lightning but does not prevent planes from landing or taking off.

Witnesses after the crash, a portion of the plane's wing could be seen jutting from town as smoke and flames poured from the middle of its broken fuselage. A row of emergency exhales lined up behind the wreck, and a fire truck sprayed the flames with water.

Some of the 297 passengers and 12 crew members who evacuated reached the nearby highway crowded with rush hour traffic.

"He located the ex-pilot on (highway 401," said police Sgt. Glen Griffiths.

Lauren Langille, 21, was flying back from France with an exchange student who was coming to live with her family in Canada.

"There was a lot of panic, but the flight attendants were really good at calming you down," said Langille, who was greeted by her father carrying balloons.

Emergency mishandled

But Dunlop said the staff did not handle the emergency well.

"One of the luggages said, 'You can calm down, it's OK,' and yet the plane was on fire and smoke was pouring in," Dunlop said the 60 "I don't like to criticize, but the staff did not seem helpful or knowledgeable."

Daniel survivors who made their way to Highway 401, a multi-lane road that adjoins Pearson International Airport, flagged down commuters who had crashed down an embankment and took them to safety. Others followed from the wrecked plane.

Hayat Hamadi said his brother Mohammad had phoned from the side of the road to tell him he was safe, after a passenger stopped to help and offered her cell phone.

"When it finally stopped, some of the guys jumped off the plane. My brother was one of them and he made his way to the 401," Hayat Hamadi said, as he waited at the airport.

"Some Good Samaritan drivers pulled over. A lady saw him, pulled over and he used her cell phone to call me. He relieved that he's safe and on the ground, thank God."

Commuter Jaddo Wilkes was driving through the storm when the rear v hull of flipping.

"We did not know it was a plane at that time. There were streaks of fire on top of the runway and doors in the field," she said.

Around hours after the crash, passengers in red blankets were hustled away from the throngs of TV cameras and journalists. The passengers were taken to a hotel to be reunited with family and friends flocked to meet relatives and friends. Some were distressed that they had to go through customs before they were reunited.

Good safety record

The accident was the first crash landing of an Airbus A340 in its 13 years of commercial service.

Chris Yates, an aviation specialist with Jane's Transport magazine, said the A340 had a very good safety record and the pilots appeared to be the cause of the accident.

"We can never account for weather," Yates said. "A thunderstorm can happen anywhere—it comes down to the judgment of the air traffic controller and the skill of the pilot to determine whether it's appropriate to land or to divert elsewhere."

The most serious plane crash in Toronto, Canada's busiest airport, was more than 20 years ago. In 1970 an Air Canada DC-8 jet, en route from Montreal to Toronto, crashed while trying to land at the airport, killing all 109 people aboard.

Reports from AP and Reuters

TORONTO CRASH

An Air France Airbus burst into flames when it exploded the runway and crashed into a gully at Toronto's Pearson International Airport in a lightning storm on Tuesday. All 309 passengers aboard were survived

IMG

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, August 4, 2005
18th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Num 20:1-13
Gospel: Matthew 16:13-23

Jesus' response to Caesarea Philippi: He asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of man is?" They said, "Some of them say you are John the Baptist, for others Elijah or Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

Jesus asked them, "But you, who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "It is well for you, Simon Bartona, for it is not flesh and blood that has revealed this to you but my Father in heaven.

And now I say to you, You are Peter (or Rock) and on this rock I will build my Church; and never will the powers of death overpower it.

"I will give into the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and what you unbind on earth shall be unbound in heaven."

Then he gave the disciples strict to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

Jesus foretells his death: From that time on he began to make it clear to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem, be roughly treated by the elders, chief priests and scribes, be put to death and on the third day be raised to life.

Then Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him, "Never, Lord (he cried) may such a thing happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path. You are thinking not as God does, but as people do."

Commentary:

The disciples answer correctly — and regular! Who do people say I am and who do you say I am? And they all think that he is a prophet! A prophet is dedicated to the true worship of God, cares for the poor, points out the sins of the rich, is often refused among the people. And Peter answers theologically — under him, his answer is for the community of Matthew. His gospel writer, after the destruction of the temple, with Christians struggling outside of the Jewish community for an identity of their own, since they have been refused and exiled from their own tradition and seeing for refusing to defend the temple against the Romans). Peter answers for the church of Matthew are told that nothing will prevail against them: not the demons and the Jews who are persecuting them, not their own infighting and not even the gates of death. The church will survive, and the power and justice will be found in the world. We are given courage to stand and endure faithfully.

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Xavier U homecoming

ATTENTION all graduates of Xavier University (Ateneo de Cagayan): You are invited to a grand homecoming on Aug. 19 and 20, 2005 in Cagayan de Oro City.

The Xavier University Alumni Alumni Association (XUAAA) has lined up several fun-filled activities to make this year's reunion more memorable, said XUAAA president Raul Roldan.

"We want to make this a family affair," said Roldan, vice president and resident manager of Philippine Airlines Group. He said this year's theme is "Thrill ang Pinagsamahan (Bring back the good times)."

The homecoming will start with a bang on Aug. 19, 2005 with a theme night dance party with fun bands playing retro songs at the Magsaysay Park fronting the Xavier University campus.

Rubble said proceeds will go to a scholarship fund.

Sta. Isabel College concert

THE SAN Isabel College Music Department will celebrate its 50th golden jubilee with a multi-piano concert on Saturday, Aug. 6, in the Philamlife Auditorium in Manila.

The San Isabel College of Manila Alumni Association (SICMAA) said the concert, with the theme "Spirit of Thanksgiving," is free to the public. The featured artists are Bingo and Helen Katigbak Mamesfalen, Bart Sellabaut, John Patrick Reyes, Mona de Veyra-Tampus, Jane Manon Malapaz, Bernice Liongson-Tiamzon and concert pianist and pedagogue Cecile Bautista-Roxas. For details, call (02) 5460240 or call tel. no. 2537961.

Mapua High '85 reunion

CALLING all graduates of Mapua Institute of Technology High School batch 1985. "Ten champagne" are planning a grand reunion on Dec. 29, 2005. There is no venue set and time inputs are needed. For information, please call Melanie Ibuyo at tel. no. (632) 8810870; Joel Alipo, (917) 8250920; or send Email to reunionbatch@hotmail.com. You can also check out www.mithsbl.com for more details.

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PAIN! Bulong Escovilla (left) of Letran displaces the rebound against Jose Rizal's Floyd Dedicatoria (left), Jeruiane Clemencio and Raymund Jorge (back) at the Centro Escolar.

Knights slip past JRU Bombers; Altas shine

By Jeannine R. Pajo

THE LETRAN Knights, keeping their composure down the stretch, slipped past the Jose Rizal U Bombers, 63-56, yesterday to extend their win streak to eight games in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Centro Escolar.

Still, coach Louie Alas was hardly impressed with the performance of his ballclub.

"We started flat, we had passive moments," said coach Louie Alas. "I commend my players, they were the ones who saved the game. They were the ones who gave us our biggest lead."

Reynel Bonifacio topscored with 13 points, while Aaron Aban delivered 11 points and nine rebounds, as the Knights kept the Bombers in the cellar at 1-7.

Earlier, the University of Perpetual Help Altas caught the Mapua Cardinals flat-footed and posted an easy 87-40 triumph.

Sophomore guard Conrad Pascual sizzled in the blowout, shooting 10 of his 21 points beyond the arc as the Altas, running up five wins, tied the St. Benilde Blazers for fifth place with a 5-3 record.

"Our offensive execution is clean, we just have to keep on attacking," said Altas coach Nic Crisostomo.

The Cardinals, who dipped to 1-7, shot only 28 percent. Their 40-point output is also the lowest this season.

The Knights opened their biggest lead at 53-40, before the Bombers mounted a 10-0 rally to pull within a basket, 53-51, with four minutes left.

Aban kept the Knights ahead, 58-53, more as the Bombers struggled on the free throw line, making only three of their last nine free throws.

The Altas set the tone for a lopsided victory with a 24-8 start.

With a 22-17 halftime edge, the Altas opened the third quarter with a 13-4 run for a 39-point buffer, 61-21.

PERPETUAL (87)—Galvez 21, Alba 11, Jun 1, Velasco 10, Apostol, Sabino 2, Salenga 2, Cortez 5, Mendoza 10, Ramos 2.

LETRAN (63)—Bonifacio 13, Aban 11, Alcoba 10, Acuna 10, Cabalu 4, Villena 4, Antipuesto 4, Balog 4, Bautista 2, Dumapias 2, Tenebroso 2, Dela Rosa 2, Mangaser 0.

PBA aspirants undergo rookie camp

THE 54 applicants to the coming Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) Draft get a chance to strut their stuff before the league holds a two-day Rookie Camp this weekend.

Boomer Black, one of the winningest coaches in PBA history and current mentor of the Air21 Blue Eagles in the UAAP, has been designated director of the camp to be held at the Blues Sarmiento gym and Manhattan Sports Complex, respectively.

This marks the first time the Rookie Camp, now on its third year, will be held for two straight days to give coaches, scouts and fans the opportunity to see first hand the future superstars of the league, according to PBA Commissioner Noli Eala.

"From among [the] ranks will come the future stars of the PBA. So we'd like to give the teams and the general public the chance to have a glimpse of them prior to the holding of the year's Rookie Draft," said Eala.

The first day of the camp, to be held on Aug. 6 (Saturday) at the Mapua Lorenzo gym, is a closed-door session from 6-10 p.m. and exclusive only for coaches of all PBA teams.

To know the rookie prospects better, they will undergo drills to test their skills, agility and quickness and shooting. They'll also be measured in terms of height, weight and vertical leap.

The following day (Aug. 7), applicants show their wares at the Manhattan Sports Complex where the camp will be open to the public from 4-7 p.m.

The draft proper is set Aug. 14 at the Ista Ortigas Event Hall in Cainta.

National pool member Anthony Washington of Mobiline, Alex Cabagnot and La Salle's Mark Cardona are among the year's top rookie prospects.

Other prominent names on the list include national players Dennis Miranda and Jonathan Salvador, Pat Barrera, JV's Don Salvo, former NCAA Most Valuable Player Leo Najorda, high-flying Jimi Candelaria, Ateneo enforcers Larry Fonacier and Paolo Bugia, Letran Knights frontmen Orvin Abelgas and Aleya Capistrano, Bacolod JV's (Jeff) guard Froilan Baguion, La Salle's Jeremie Gyse and Pedro Rubiales of the University of the East.

Nat'l Marathon lures 14,000 bets

All the 20th season of the national title in Marathon counters in halfway mark, Metro Manila runners and exChampions gear up for The National Capital Region leg on Sunday at the Quirino Grandstand.

Over 14,000 runners are expected to answer the starter's gun as registration ends today.

Slated from PESA,000 are at stake in the 10k Mid-Marathon 10K race that also offers trophies and medals to the top 10 finishers in the 5K, 10K, 21K age group for kids and the consecutive 42K qualifying race held in partnership with Shoppers Drug Mart, adidas, Cebu Pacific, Bicol Rd, Department of Tourism, Added Mobile Prepaid and Powerbar.

Aside from the running events, schools in Metro Manila also prepare for the elaborate—The cheering competitions, the biggest delegation contest and the most school running competitors...which is beginning to send the show from the 800-meter schools.

Among the early school visitors guaranteed for the safe events platoon are the University of Makati, Ft. Bonifacio High School, Valenzuela High School, TSU Bonifacio against High School, City Colleges of Manila and AMA North Bay.

The 21K distance leave clear for everyone every 1,500 entries while the 42K qualifying run have already attracted 300 runners. The 10K division has 11,500 entries.

The qualifying time for the MCR 42K elimination Fair is four hours for the men and four hours and 30 minutes for the women. The cut-off time for the full marathon distance is five hours.

The men's and women's champion in the MCR full marathon will qualify to compete in the National Finals slated on Oct. 9 also in Metro Manila where the champion garden PTS,000.

After this sunday's MCR elimination run, the 10km Marathon goes to Luneta City next Saturday, Aug. 14, for the Region 1 elimination run.

NEW CAGE BODY

Moying hoping for Fiba nod

"We hope to get a positive response."

This optimism was expressed by Moying Martelino yesterday as the first president of the Philippine Basketball Federation prepared the first official communication to the International Basketball Federation (Fiba) seeking the lifting of the country's suspension from international competitions.

With the recent recognition of the new cage body by the Philippine Olympic Committee, the 70-year-old Martelino said the PBF is now ready to seek Fiba recognition as well.

"We hope to get a positive response from them (Fiba)," Martelino said. "I'm ready to fly to Switzerland (where Fiba is based) or at a moment's notice so that we can iron things out with them."

The Philippines was other body suspended by Fiba as it rejected a POC decision to support the Basketball Association of the Philippines from the local Olympic body last June.

The BAP was earlier suspended after engaging on basic agreement forged during a POC meeting with BAP officials and other stakeholders of the sport. Mixsang M. Castillo

Cavite meets Manila today in NBC meet

NBA Eastern Investment hooked Cavite goes up against winless Manila today at the Rizal Sports Complex, seeking its seventh win in 12 games in the 2005 Pampanga NBC national basketball championship.

The Batangas are slightly favored over the Sanchez-Carbonell Grains hooked Marilaque in the 5 p.m. contest.

The winless ladies Manilans have yet to win in the tourney supported by Pampanga, Salgado Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Bioflesh Sports Drink, Accel, Mobiot, Far Eastern Insurance, Mega Motorcycles, Inlite, Super Toothpaste, Greenstone, Still Water, Pharmaton, Boom-Boom Shoes, Supreme Bath Hand and Holiday Diary Cebu.

Rhonda Joel Jr. Bel Claro gunner in Lagalag Spring Valencia Golden Harvest and Egan Crusaders.

The Scorers of Soccer Star Mayor Edwin Madrid and rising supporter Gov. Ernesto "Dodong" Mathel have formed their formerly second citizen supported PBL reference Marvin Obligacion, Marvin Marmacky and Mark Abadilla.

On the other hand, Manila hopes to break into the win column with the help of former Letran cager Bonghee Ramos and Ronnie Magsanoc, ex-Bulacan Agila Gardens and James Redential, veteran Noel Ipemdolan and Filipino Irish Hardin and Francis Roschinyan.

Sta. Rosa-Spring drubs Pamplona

MBH Magic delivered the big show in the night time Sunday to propel Sta. Rosa-Spring of Mayor Joey Kennedy and businessman Johnny de Jesus past Pamplona-Pamantoc, 95-81, in an encounter finales in the 9th Danny Ingalvis Cup basketball tournament at the Makati Coliseum gym in Makati City.

Ningai made 11 of his 35 points in the fourth quarter and class, combined with guard Mike Nerza for nine markers in a 15-5 scoring in the extra period to complete Spring's comeback from a 16-point deficit.

It was the second straight win for Sta. Rosa-Spring in the tourney supported by Sun Mipsol, Akil, Baker's Sun, Pantaone ETE Gen. Milling Corp., Spring Cooking Oil and Prime Channel.

"Mike (Ningai) baited us out," said Spring coach Ver "Bombo" Sanchez. "The boys simply never gave up."

In the other game, San Sebastian College-Cavite routed Manuel L. Quezon University, 86-64, for its second win in three games.

The Stags jumped to a 26-16 first-quarter lead and never looked back.

UP point guard Robert Labagala defends against Adamson's Patrick Cabahug in their game Saturday at Warriors center Dindo Pumaren (left) shows instructions. ALBERT SOA (INQ)

Hot Warriors tackle Eagles; UP-AdU today

UNIVERSITY of the East coach Dindo Pumaren believes his Warriors can cope with high expectations when they battle the Ateneo Eagles in the UAAP basketball tournament today at the Araneta Coliseum.

"If our aggressiveness and the determination of the players are there, we'll be all right," said Pumaren as his young and gritty Phoenix pair for their fifth straight win at 4 p.m.

Just as surprising as the Warriors' impressive records is the sudden slump of the University of the Philippines Maroons who are now tied with the Eagles at 1-2.

The Maroons will try to regain from a two-game slide when they tackle the Adamson Falcons at 1:30 p.m.

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
8:30 a.m.—UP vs Adamson (jrs)
10:30 a.m.—UE vs Ateneo (jrs)
1:30 p.m.—UP vs Adamson (srs)
4 p.m.—UE vs Ateneo (srs)

The Warriors are major contenders from three seniors as their 84-69 win of the Maroons last Saturday.

Reinhard Customides delivered an all-around performance with 19 points, four rebounds, eight assists and five steals. The freshman guard also got ample support from Mark Barkhoot and Jamie Marfilon, who rounded out the 20 points.

"The strength of our team is our quickness," noted Pumaren. "Ateneo is playing well, they just won back-to-back. They also have a very tall lineup."

But coach Norman Black said his Eagles have a lot better even after scoring their first big win over the Blazers, 77-65, last Sunday.

"It's going to be tougher," said Black. "You're looking at a team that's going to press us for 40 minutes. They'll try to take us out of our offense. We have what we have to do. It's just a matter of completing it and getting it done."

Black is also worried of the Eagles' tomorrow opponent—27-6 per game. Jeannine H. Pajo

RP drivers to test Sentul Circuit

OAKO Iriks and Team Ity will lead a big bunch of drivers who will test drive at the Sentul Circuit in Indonesia as part of their preparations for the second and eighth rounds of the Asian Formula Three series on Aug. 20-21.

Iriks, the four-placed Filipino driver in the series overall, has so far collected 37 points, will five-time his Team Goddard Mitsuoli Team Asia Dallara 301 Toni's car while Ity of Speed Tech Asia, who's running seventh with 30 points, will also test drive his Dallara Toni's 301.

Both drivers have had problem finishes in the first six rounds of the Asian-racism hopping series but have yet to score a win. Iriks's best finish so far was runners up in the third leg in Dubai, Orima, while Ity had his third finish twice, both in Dubai.

Other drivers who will sample the Sentul circuit, built in 1997 for formula One racing, are the four members of Shell Helix Electric FOIO Team, the twin 03 championship leader in the series racing with 2.57 points.

James Woodyer of Great Britain, fresh from his victory in the sixth leg in Dubai, and Indonesian John D'Lara will run in their Dallara 301 Toni cars. Former AFG champion Nipoti Mantovani, running fifth in the overall class with 40 points, will run his Dallara 304 Toni's car although he may switch to Toni power if the latter engine arrives on time.

The fourth member of the Shell Helix team, Irishman Lee Farrell, will test-drive The Promotions Class Dallara 308 Toni's car.

Team Goddard Mitsuoli Team Asia owner Mark Goddard will test drive Greg Murphy's Dallara 308 Toni's Promotions Class in a bid to fine-tune the car ahead of the three last races while chance to win his Promotions Class battle with Mexico Sotopopio of Indonesia.

Sotopopio's half-brother, Amanda Mikado, the championship leader with 95 points, will race his Formula Racing with Three Bond Dallara 304 Nissan. Mikado dominated two races in Sentul last year and is bidding to sweep the next two rounds, along with the fourth and 10th round-race rounds.

GOWLING GUEST: Philippine Bowling Congress executive vice president Jaime C. Dychiao delivers his inspirational talk during the opening of the 6th ASEAN Pepsi Open bowling championship records at Gateway's Recreation Center in Federal Supermall, Alabang. Dychiao also led the ceremonial roll.

BORJA shows winning form in the mountain bike.

Borja rules Oakley Mt. Bike Challenge

SENIOR rider Mike Borja topped the Greenhill Division of the first-ever Oakley Mountain Bike Challenge at the Fido Alba Barangka, Barangay Barangka, Bacoor recently.

His top-of-the-line mountain bike proving well with his master riding skills, Borja clocked a fast 4:12.59 to climb to beat Jose Bella (4:21.11) and Jeff Mapue (4:49.47).

Shirley Tetzlaff raised the Seniors category with a time of 48.56, followed by Alan Isidro (52.16) and Christy Chua (53.54) in the event where Oakley Irvin and accessories were raffled off to participants. Rene Cabato (27.51) and Tito Campo (30.06) placed fourth and fifth, respectively.

In the Beginners Division, Hector Tan won in 49.16, beating Alejandro Chan (51.05), Joy Bello (52.79), Ogie Calibugan (54.44) and Ramon Diaz (58.46).

Organized by KPL president Nani A. Pamaguian, the Oakley Mountain Bike Challenge is sponsored by Oakley, Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Inc., BC Cola, Aqua Soft, Rainbo, Tropical Ice, YES, Ogie Boggie Sandwich and Sausages, Triplex, Sarsaparilla, East Coast, Simcity, Nano Auto Center, Glass Tints, Cyborg Jerseys, Hamperia, Pedalers, Techno Turbo Trading and Dan's Bike Shop. Pamaguian also thanked Mayor Willy Robles and the cleanhead team Local Boys, Bicol.

In the Cross Country competition, Robbie Mercado, Rex Cortez and Bernie Bercasio placed 1-2-3 in the sports category while Alden Pamaguian won the Celebrity Invitation with Dominic Cichon, Antonio Aquinaya and Christopher Peralta ranking 2-3-4.

9th August Fore stakes Vios at Wack Wack

A TOYOTA Vios 1.5 and a Honda motorcycle top the list of prizes to be disputed when the Rotary Club of Milltop wages the ninth edition of the August Fore! tournament golf tournament at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

At the host course of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

The Tees from Toyota Shaw's Hide, Corp. and the Honda motorbike from Rajah Corp. are at stake as both in one prize in separate events.

Almost a hundred players made up of invited guests, sponsors and patrons are joining the tourney which is expected to generate funds for the Milltop's missions to help the underprivileged and needy sectors of Quezon City and nearby areas.

Responding to the call of the Milltop are Performance Foods Corp., Sevilla Phils. (Texas Fried Chicken), Barrientos Capital And Limited, International Container Terminal Services Inc., Zuellig Corp., Manila Bank, Marshall Phil. Inc., L.E. Richman, Jim Miguel Super Dry Boat, Alfa Insurance, Phoenix Petroleum Phils., Inc., Ed-nardo, Arroyo, Ah-21 and S.L. Agri-tech.

Dynamic Sports Corp. is also donating a Cobra golf set to the hole-in-one package that also includes a home showcase and a free one-year fellowship certificate of membership. If not won on the course, the Honda motorcycle and the home showcase will be raffled off.

Through the years, the August Fore! has helped provide funds for various socio-civic projects of the Milltop like the Kristiyanong Ito Ako Ministries, Inc. (KIAMI), Alay Kay Cristo at Lola for the neglected elderly citizens; and others. Manuel Quiambao

Children's backboard spurs basketball

RADIKE kitchen basketball team begins with the right equipment.

This is the credo of Spalding (S&S), the world's leading basketball equipment provider, which is introducing through Precinct Sports Center its latest line of basketball equipment, the Youth Portable and One-On-One—that are perfect for young Filipinos aspiring to play in the big league.

Philbas Juan Rebuan said that the Youth Portable and One-On-One were ideal entry level basketball equipment for young Filipino athletes because of their durability, portability and flexibility.

"Kids get more interested in their game when they play with the right equipment especially those endorsed by the NBA," Rebuan said.

The Youth Portable backboard is designed to fit the gap between the top and full size portable backboard systems. It has a 32-inch fan-Composite backboard and a 14-inch diameter rim.

The telescoping backboard mount easily adjusts backboard height in 2-inch increments from 4.5 feet to 6.5 feet. The 3-piece pole system can be easily assembled and stands on a 34-gallon base.

The One-On-One is designed as a starter set for kid beginners and can be adjusted to a height of between 32 and 52 inches. It has a 24-inch backboard with a colorful NBA graphic and a 10-inch diameter molded resin rim. The base is made of plastic materials. It can be filled or emptied of sand or water for stability.

Both backboards are equipped with the Quick Clip save, a safety net release system that prevents injuries by releasing the net when a player gets their hand caught in it.

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YOUNG children can play basketball safely with the Spalding Muffy backboard.

Miami acquires Walker

Heat complete record NBA trade, re-sign Shaq

MIAMI, Florida—The Miami Heat, who missed reaching the National Basketball Association finals by one game, acquired three-time All-Star forward Antoine Walker from Boston in a five-team, 13-player deal.

Walker was the centerpiece of the largest trade in NBA history. The deal also involved Memphis, Sacramento and Utah.

The previous biggest trade in league history was in 2000, when the New York Knicks sent Patrick Ewing to a four-team, 12-player swap.

The Heat also re-signed point guard Damon Stoudamire, forward James Posey from Memphis, while trading guard Eddie Jones to the Grizzlies. Miami also received the draft rights of Roberto Duenas of Spain from New Orleans.

"We're excited that the deal that we worked a lot, but we got back three quality pieces," Heat president Pat Riley said. "Antoine Walker is one of the very best multi-talented, versatile players in the game. I think, after making some adjustments, he can fit comfortably into our system and be very productive."

As part of the deal, the Heat shipped guard-forward Caron Butler, forward Jamaal Magloire, guard Antoine Wright to Spanish center Albert Miralles, two second-round picks and center Rasho Nesterovic to Utah.

Walker, who made 21-or-more appearances in the playoffs in each of his seven seasons with the Celtics, averaged 16.9 points, 6.7 rebounds and 4.1 assists last season. He's also scored 20-or-more points in 10 consecutive playoff games.

Walker, who turns 29 on August 12, has career averages of 19.6 points, 6.7 rebounds and 4.1 assists. He's also scored 20-or-more points in 10 consecutive playoff games.

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Opposition solons want Smart, Globe to produce GMA, Garci phone bills

By Michael Lim Ubac

TWO IMPEACHMENT lawmakers yesterday asked Congress to subpoena billing statements of the cellular phones used by President Macapagal-Arroyo and former Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

The minority's impeachment spokespersons, Rep. Kiko Pangilinan and Sen. Jamby Madrigal, said the billing records containing calls during the 2004 election period should be submitted by Smart Communications and Globe Telecoms to the joint committee.

Congress made the unorthodox move after the resignation of the government inquiry into the "Hello Garci" audio tapes supposedly containing conversations between Mrs Arroyo and Garcillano on rigging election results.

Administration lawmakers opposed the move.

The privacy of correspondence was "inviolable," said Sen. Sotero (Nikki) Laurel Sotero, Edcel Lagman and Josefina Villaraza, quoting Article 3, Section 3, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, as they opposed the issuance of a subpoena duces tecum.

Sotero also said the Bill of Rights "tries to protect the individuals against the power of government to look into his privacy of communication and correspondence."

Cayetano shot back: "This is not a subdivision. This goes deeper. It goes to the issue: I'm not asking for a divorce but I'm asking that these records be provided by us, by submitted to the chairman. The chairman will take a quick look at it and we will see whether there's a next step."

Rep. Gilbert Remulla, chair of the lead investigating committee, ruled that the matter should be best referred to a legal expert for opinion.

Arrest order out for Garcillano

From page A1

"With this warrant, we're hoping that there will be a real search for Commissioner Garcillano. He contemptuously refused to attend our hearings, and (he) is now in contempt of the warrants we issued," Lagman said.

Lagman wanted to adopt in-camera or executive ruling of the five House committees conducting the probe, to declare Garcillano in contempt for adamantly refusing to appear before the inquiry despite two subpoenas issued against him.

This prompted Bataan del Sur Rep. Herminio Coquia to object, saying that because the impeachment proceeding against the lawyer-was now under way in the House committee on justice, the arrest "can become moot and academic."

Remulla explained that the committees first held Garcillano in contempt yesterday morning. There other members assured to arrest him.

But under House rules, the Speaker would have to sign the warrant to effect the arrest, which he already did, said the presiding Cavite lawmaker.

Deputy sergeant-at-arms Bayani Sarao will coordinate today with law enforcement agencies to serve the warrant, while the Philippine National Police is expected to coordinate with Interpol should Garcillano leave the country via the backdoor.

Arrest 'on sight'

Rep. Prospero Pichay said Garcillano should be "arrested on sight."

"I also appeal to him to come on. Otherwise, he continued absence and perhaps flight, will be taken as an admission of guilt," said Pichay who branded as an "illegal and unconstitutional ruling" the opposition's effort to put the opposition's efforts to put the opposition's efforts to put the opposition's efforts

LAGUNA DE BAY UNDER STRESS

Most lake firms not paying ecology fees

By Blanche S. Rivera

AROUND 6,000 companies in the Laguna Lake area are not paying their environmental user's fee, depriving the government of millions in revenues, the Laguna Lake Development Authority said.

The companies account for more than half of the 10,000 small, medium and large manufacturers surrounding the lake, which has been identified by researchers as "extremely stressed" due to pollution.

Dolores Z. Resurreccion, LLDA environment quality management division officer, said only around 4,000 firms have registered with the LLDA out of last year.

LLDA also showed that industries contribute 19 percent of pollutants to Laguna Lake, domestic waste 68.1 percent, agriculture 11.3 percent, 1.5 percent from farms and others.

LLDA jurisdiction covers the Cabuyao (Cavite), Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon areas. The lake is located in the southern Tagalog region and one of the fastest growing economic zones in the country.

"We can control them (industries). They have become compliant. Normally the households that are current-regulars, and they are the biggest polluters of the lake," Resurreccion said in an interview.

"Industrialists often throw back the argument to us, saying we're no savior with those fees do not do anything with the bigger polluters, which are households," she said.

She said the LLDA had more support and cooperation from private stakeholders than from local government units.

The 4,000 registered companies already represent a substantial improvement in the registrations as only around 1,000 companies complied with LLDA requirements when the user's fee was introduced in 1997, she said.

The LLDA charges a fixed fee of P5 per kilo of water discharged from the lake and another fee or penalty if the water meter confirms more than the acceptable level of biochemical oxygen demand and total coliform count.

The acceptable BOD level for class C water is 30 mg/l and 5,000 mpn for total coliform count. The LLDA conducts water sampling every quarter to ensure the water users' discharge remains within the parameters approved by the permit.

"We do not revoke their permit when they fail, but are penalize them, and we have the option of not renewing their permit the following year," Resurreccion said.

Would a meager P1,000 per day penalty for the violation, the LLDA has increased its charges to P1,000 per day of violation.

The 90,000-hectare Laguna Lake is the largest inland body of water in the Philippines and one of the largest lakes in Southeast Asia.

It covers a watershed area of 203,000 hectares encompassing 12 cities, 49 municipalities and 2,046 barangays, of which 107 are directly within lakefront zones.

No special treatment for VIP lane passengers – Customs

By Nikko Dizon

THE BUREAU of Customs at the country's premier international airport would not grant special treatment to passengers who avail themselves of the "Meet and Assist Service" (MAS) offered by the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA).

This was the reaction of a Customs official upon learning that the MAS includes the use of the counter lanes for a few clearances at the customs inspectors and quarantine (CIQ).

"[Customs'] line is there might be a misconception among passengers who avail themselves of this service that they would be exempted from being inspected and searched," the official, who requested anonymity, said.

The official added that these lanes benefit passengers who coordinated with their baggage being inspected when they have already paid for Meet's VIP assistance.

"They have to realize that even with VIP assistance, their bags will still be inspected and they will still be issued access," the official said.

Carmelita Salazar, customs collector for arrival passenger services, said that the BOC supports the airport authority's project, but expressed hope that passengers who avail themselves of assistance should also conform with customs rules and regulations.

Earlier, the Mias stressed that "it is the responsibility of the respective party to ensure that the passengers to be assisted have no derogatory record" with the immigration, customs, or any Philippine government agency.

The MAS office never services for passengers with the following rates: P1,000 per flight hour; P800 for individual passengers; P800 per head for groups with one to five passengers; and P500 per head for groups with more than five passengers.

San Diego; 77

JULIANA Senmpf-San Diego, mother of Inquirer Entertainment reporter Suprei San Diego, died on July 28 after a lingering illness. She was 77.

The interment is at the St. Catherine Chapel of Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels in Sucat, Parañaque. Cremation is on this a after the 11 a.m. Mass at the Holy Trinity Crematorium.

San Diego is also survived by children Gonia, Wilma, Gina, Tess, Jaime Percy, grandchildren Sheila, Kristy, Cesar, Dani and Ignes.

IMPORTANT

To the Devotees of the SACRED HEART OF JESUS, Tomorrow, August 5 , 2005, will be the FIRST FRIDAY of the month. Novenas to the SACRED HEART OF JESUS and also to ST. ANTHONY are given away FREE at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City or from Rory at 179 Salcedo St. Legaspi Village, Makati City.

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Ilanan

Anwar wins apology for 1998 beating

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia's former police chief on Wednesday publicly apologized to ex-Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim for beating him in custody in 1998—leaving him with a black eye that defined in one image the charismatic leader's fall from grace in a power struggle with his mentor, Mahathir Mohamad.

Anwar, once a rising star on his way to prime ministership, will also receive unspecified financial compensation in the out-of-court settlement to be reached with former Inspector General of Police Abdul Rahim Noor and his ex-deputy, Mahathir, the then prime minister and home minister, and the government, lawyers for both sides told the court.

A statement read in court by Abdul Rahim's lawyer, Joseph Tan, said: "I, Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Noor accept responsibility for the ... assault. The pain and hurt caused to you and to your family is deeply regretted. I sincerely apologize to you Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and your family for the same."

ANWAR

Tan Sri and Datuk Seri are how elite honored by the government.

Anwar, 56, filed a civil suit against the three parties because of a beating he received from Abdul Rahim which resulted in several injuries including the infamous black eye, photos of which appeared around the world. Abdul Rahim was said to have punched and slapped a blindfolded Anwar as he sat handcuffed in a police truck.

Anwar also said his back was injured in the assault, leaving him to undergo surgery last year.

Abdul Rahim was charged in May 1999 with assaulting Anwar in the night of his arrest, Sept. 20, 1998.

"I, my family, accept the apology," said Anwar, dressed in a dark suit, who sat impassively in court as the apology was read out.

"There is no point in going on with this episode. The pain, anguish and humiliation were huge but I agree that we have to move on," Anwar said, indicating he may also drop his dismissal for a public apology from Mahathir.

"It's not a personal vendetta," he told reporters before leaving to shouts of "Mahathir!" by scores of supporters.

"Reformasi!" had been the battle cry of his supporters when he led weeks of street demonstrations against Mahathir in demand democratic reforms and an end to corruption after he was fired on Sept. 1, 1998.

Abdul Rahim was forced to resign over the beating—the first police chief to quit for mistreating suspects—and was sentenced to 6O days in prison. He served just nine days before his release, which was released for good behavior. AP

Corruption at Iraqi defense ministry bared

BAGHDAD—Hundreds of millions of dollars have been wasted on unnecessary and overpriced equipment for Iraq's new army at a time when the United States and its allies are struggling to get the force to shape to battle insurgents, Iraqi officials say.

Iraqi authorities have opened inquiries into several cases of possible corruption at the defense ministry. The ministry official believed behind many of the questionable deals was removed from his job in June and banned from leaving the country.

"Corruption is widespread in the ministry. One of the cases alone is worth $500 million. The investigation is still going on," said Inspector General al-Hamdi, a member of the Independent Supreme Anti-corruption Commission.

Most of the alleged unnecessary purchases were made during the time of interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, who took office after occupation authorities turned over sovereignty to Iraqis on June 28, 2004.

When new Defense Minister Saadoun al-Dulaimi took office in May, an investigation was opened into several alleged cases of corruption.

Former Electoral Security Advisor Qassim Dawood refused to speak about corruption at the ministry, citing the ongoing investigations.

Iraqi investigators are probing several weapons and equipment deals engineered by the dismissed official, former procurement officer Jawdat Qasim, and other defense officials.

One case involves 3O-ish weapons maker Bitelaz, which signed a $258-million contract in December to equip the Iraqi army with helicopters, ambulances, patrols, machine guns and sniper weapon rifles. Added to other deals signed last year, Bitelaz's contracts with the Iraqi army totaled nearly $300 million. AP

ASTRONAUT Piers Sellers, retired epidemiologist Maura Rossman and Boeing engineer Mike Gallagher, who took classes at the Mesa engineers to practice the repair technique that will be used by space walker Steve Robinson to repair shuttle Discovery on his upcoming spacewalk in this image from Mesa on May 2. REUTERS

American journalist killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD—American freelance journalist Steven Vincent was found dead in the southern Iraqi city of Basra, the US Embassy said Wednesday. Police said he had been shot multiple times and his wife and Iraqi translator were abducted at gunpoint from another.

"I can confirm to you that still, only in Basra have recovered the body of journalist Steven Vincent," said embassy spokesperson Pete Mitchell. "The US Embassy is working with British military and local Iraqi officials in Basra to determine who is responsible for the death of this journalist. Our condolences go out to the family."

The embassy did not give the cause of death. However, Iraqi police in Basra said Vincent was abducted along with his female assistant as gunmen Tuesday evening. The organization Reporters Sans Frontières, Paris-based media watchdog, said Vincent was shot dead. AP

Snuppy is world's first cloned dog

SEOUL—South Korean scientists announced on Wednesday they had carried out the first successful cloning of a dog, creating a duplicate of a three-year-old Afghan hound by using the same technique that gave the world Dolly the Sheep.

The support canine, born on April 24, has been named Snuppy, for Seoul National University Hospital, they reported in Nature, the British weekly science journal.

Snuppy (still blurb, tan and white fur) is genetically identical to his father, according to DNA tests.

Six pups about, mice, cows, goats, pigs, rabbits, cats, a mule, a horse, rats and a rare wild ox called a gaur in the list of animals that have been cloned since Dolly the first mammal to be created from an adult cell, was born in Scotland in July 1996.

The technique, called somatic cell nucleus transfer, stands taking an egg and removing the nucleus that contains the DNA programs for life.

The nucleus is then replaced by the nucleus of an adult cell taken from the animal which is to be cloned.

The reconstructed egg is then treated with chemicals or a jolt of electricity to make it divide. It then continues to grow in a dish filled with nurturing chemicals, until it becomes a cluster of cells big enough to be manipulated into the uterus of a surrogate mother.

Dogs have been among the smallest of animals to clone, mainly because of the difficulty of acquiring eggs that are in a state of maturity.

In contrast to other mammal species, dogs ovulate when their eggs are immature. The eggs go to a special duct to mature for two or three days.

The South Korean team, led by Woo Suk Hwang of the university's College of Veterinary Medicine, solved the problem by gently flushing out the embryo to harvest the mature eggs.

The donor nucleus for Snuppy came from the ear skin cell of a male Afghan hound, while the surrogate mother was a yellow Labrador retriever, which gave birth to the puppy. AFP

Discovery crew nervous about repair spacewalk

HOUSTON—Discovery astronauts preparing to carry out a risky repair to the underside of the shuttle scheduled Tuesday they are nervous about the operation.

Astronauts Stephen Robinson will surely earn the recommended repair Wednesday taking a backseat and some footage to set two sensitive fiber strands that engineers fear could lead to a repeat of the Columbia disaster in 2003.

President George W. Bush telephoned the crew to praise the "risk-takers" of space exploration but one member said he had "tempered" about the operation.

Robinson will at first try to pull off the strands by hand and then with forceps but if that does not work six days off with a hacksaw.

"I am pretty much confident we can do it," Robinson said in a press conference from the Discovery. "But, no doubt about it, this is going to be a very delicate task. But we'll use a simple saw."

Those engineers are concerned that the shuttle could overheat because of insensibility that the gap fillers, designed to protect the craft from heat-shielding about 2.5 cm from between the tiles on the underside of the shuttle, could cause during the descent to Earth.

Japanese astronaut Soichi Noguchi will accompany Robinson for the spacewalk, the third of the mission, which is the first since Columbia disintegrated during reentry on Feb. 1, 2003, killing all seven crew on board.

The Discovery crew went over the repair operation and inspected the makeshift hacksaw for Robinson, who said sure had to be taken with every movement to avoid scraping the delicate tiles.

"The hacksaw is really a contingency device," Robinson said. "The idea is just to pull out this thin gap filler cutter by hand or with a pair of tweezers, and we'll use the hacksaw only if necessary."

Shelly Thirsk, an Australian member of the crew, said the astronauts originally had "imagining" about going underneath the shuttle. Such a repair has never been attempted in the quarter century history of shuttle flights. AFP

King Fahd buried in simple Riyadh grave

RIYADH—Saudi Arabia's King Fahd was buried in a simple unmarked grave on Tuesday after a brief funeral where Muslim leaders mourned the passing of the ailing global oil giant for two turbulent decades.

In keeping with the kingdom's austere Islamic traditions, Fahd, who in life enjoyed enormous wealth and privilege, was laid to rest in a sprawling public cemetery in Riyadh alongside hundreds of other unidentified dirt graves.

Fahd died on Monday after 23 years ruling the strategic Gulf state which is both the world's biggest oil exporter and the cradle of Islam—fostering more than a billion faithful to turn from Islam a day to, until Mecca in prayer.

In the Imam Turki bin Abdullah mosque in the capital, Muslim leaders from across the world joined ordinary Saudis and Fahd's successor and half-brother Abdullah to perform prayers for the dead. Women, segregated from men in the big door, were absent.

The brief afternoon ceremony was devoid of pomp. Fahd's body wrapped in a brown shroud and laid on a bier, was carried out of the mosque and driven to its final resting place in an ambulance.

Hundreds of security forces ringed with mourners in the mosque and snipers were posted around the cemetery. A series of rituals by supporters of al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden had clouded Fahd's final, ailing years after his stroke in 1995.

An official said security forces were taking the same precautions "that any other government would take to secure a huge event like this with a top-high profile guests."

Earlier today, Prince Muqrin, Saudi Arabia has set no mourning period, in keeping with Wahhabi scripture of God's will without question, Saudi flags, emblazoned with the proclamation of faith: "There is no God but Allah," flew at half mast.

Businesses opened as usual, though the mood was subdued. Reuters

North Korea nuke talks hang in the balance, negotiators still at loggerheads

BEIJING—Talks aimed at ending the crisis over North Korea's nuclear programs hung in the balance on Wednesday with the six parties deadlocked after more than a week and some delegates talking openly of breakdown.

Negotiators from the host Korea, the United States, Russia, Japan and host China have been at the table for a record eight days and remain at loggerheads on the issue of when Pyongyang should dismantle its programs—before, or after, it receives LH security guarantees and aid.

The fourth round of talks appeared destined to end without a formal joint statement. After days of wrangling over Chinese-proposed drafts, the US delegation was questioning whether the parties should reject a challenge to refuse to share rostrum with the lunch desk was for consultations.

On the eve of the ninth day of talks, US chief negotiator Christopher Hill said: "I think the issue we have now needs fire up, that is, does it stand up with an agreement, does it stand up with parties saying well, look, we have to do some more substantial considerations in capitals, or does it send up to a flat out disagreement."

Hill's view followed comments from North Korean officials, reported in Seoul, that if no agreement was reached on Wednesday the talks could be considered a failure. Reuters

WORLDBRIEFS

Mass vaccination of poultry

HANOI—Vietnam has launched a mass vaccination of poultry this week in two provinces in a fight to limit the avian bird flu virus, which the national health officials said could be the source of the next pandemic. Officials plan to begin administering about 10 million shots in southern Tien Giang province and northern Hanoi. Both provinces this week—the largest scale test for vaccination in Southeast Asia. Viet Nam said. Investigators said the suspected outbreaks by poultry and "in Vietnam and in some Southeast Asian countries, the culling means this will damage [but for] sure," said Tri Long Thanh, vice director of Vietnam's National Avian Influenza Taskforce. "Your [that] you can't get a vaccine or a shot or a kind of poultry, but it can't eliminate or reduce the pathogenic virus. AP

7 US Marines killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD—Seven American Marines have been killed in fighting in Iraq's western Anbar province. We give the heartland which means challenging US and insurgent troops despite repeated security crackdowns. One of many most violent areas, militants operate, Army officials said. Al-Qaeda claimed responsibility for the deaths, saying it had killed eight Marines. "The force of reinforcements encountered a military eight terrorist car bombers, slaughtering many of them and destroying their and other combating Marines 40 [unintelligible], our [for] the Allies," it said in a statement posted on an Islamist website. Six of the Marines were killed Monday near Haditha. They were engaged by insurgents with small arms. The seventh Marine was killed by a roadside bomb near the town of Hit. Reuters

Russia bars US ABC News

MOSCOW—Moscow said on Tuesday it would bar journalists from US television's ABC News from reporting in Russia after the network aired an interview with Chechnya rebel leader Shamil Basayev. The Foreign Ministry said in a statement ABC's decision could become [unintelligible] and to the accreditation, they would be banned from working in Russia. The Foreign Ministry statement said ABC's use "once again chose to conduct an Russian news organization or journalist." ABC News President David Westin said he regretted the Russian government's decision but [unintelligible]. Reuters

Highest bidder for project

SINGAPORE—Hongkong Land Holdings Limited, Hongkong Chinese Holdings Ltd, Hutchison Whampoa Ltd, and Keppel Land Ltd, the developers of One Raffles Quay at Marina Boulevard, have submitted the highest bid for the Singapore land [unintelligible] 40 to 106 of the New Downtown. For the tender submissions, a new consortium has been set through three subsidiary companies, consisting of Hongkong Land's Singapore Pte Ltd, Hongkong Chinese Group Limited, which is co-owned with Hutchison Whampoa Limited, and Keppel Land's Bay Front Development Pte Ltd. All three subsidiary companies have equal shares in the joint venture. The JV'C also completes a gross floor area of 230,000 sq. m. "The consortium committed the highest prices of the development of approximately 165,000 sq. m., including [unintelligible], could be in the tune of [unintelligible] million," it said. [unintelligible] All figures no. m. 1-Hong Kong Land is a major investor in Raffles Properties Ltd., subsidiary of middle income projects in the Philippines

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OPINION

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CORRUPTION
CHARGES
ACCUSATIONS
CHARGES
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CHARGES

No return to the bottle

POLITICAL TIDBITS
Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

WHEN I first saw opposition senator Mirriam Defensor Santiago on TV, as he accused President Macapagal-Arroyo of having witnessed the killing of Colonel Al Aviado in her 2-star residence in January 2004, the first image that came to my mind was his namesake: I imagined that if this great swordsman painter Miyamoto Musashi were of his 19th century namesake's size and weight as he painted the frontispiece of the ending of the Shinto Ongoi, formerly unbeaten swordsman Sasaki Kojiro would have brought his sure-cutting down from the scaffolding. How many carabaos might have been crushed to death?

It turns out, happily in contemporary setting, the accused Miyamoto Musashi landed on a huge dead carabao and not on the prostrate body of the senator. Or even perhaps the public has grown quite numb to the savagery of accusations against GMA. In political warfare, as in matters other things, there's such a thing as diminishing returns. Or maybe, as in the case of Santiago, it doesn't know when to stop dishing out its blows. An overkill. Seriously, Santi's credibility is totally shot. Such a huge man with a huge pool of money to carry out a huge campaign to destroy GMA's political query raised by the frustrated Susay pamphlet. Why was there no appearance announced by Susay, Sr. Cam, another opposition senator with a string of "exposés" on GMA? Or perhaps the opposition is beyond fear? Let's examine that GMA had gathered key Comelec officials early to save her pal, Lito Tinoko, dismissed P30,000 to each of them.

Such chambers of Congress have resumed their respective inquiries supposedly to aid of legislation: the House on the wiretapping row, runaway, and the Senate on "porkbarrel." The public, however, remained wary and indifferent. Its positive issue to scrutinize, when the impeachment process has already begun in the Senate. Like a jukebox, the Senate cannot have the due effect be replay or repeat conference, when beg, or debated that he should just testify in the House committee on justice headed by Rep. Fernando Barzaga. The same is true of the Senate committee on justice headed by Senator Roilo Golez.

To those the short endeavors of these inquiries, there is a ready shooting star while the Senate conducted 34 inquiries during the 12th Congress, only one piece of legislation resulted from them. Senator Osmeña observed that the Congress of the whole would come to a halt if there would be no TV coverage. I cannot agree more.

* * *

The opposition has thrown everything, including the kitchen sink, at GMA over the past two months, in the hope of making her resign. It has raised an allegation after allegation and paraded a dozen witnesses of questionable character. After failing to get a resignation, it resorted to trying to drag in Susay, her ex-wife and children to the impeachment arena. But in the House it began bulldozing about the rules to prevent this process, after failing to get the 79 signatures necessary for the filing of the complaint. The opposition thrice acted to go back to the source if it didn't get the votes it liked. In the short-life debate and get the necessary signatures, Rep. Francis Escudero (NPC) Leader Prospero Nograles and Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, who adroitly sponsored the rules in the House, gamely agreed to adopt the rules for the final impeachment in the 13th Congress.

* * *

Now the opposition is complaining that the administration Congressmen allow a "creeping" impeachment, wherein once it garners 79 votes all remaining members automatically become part of the complaint would be sure purchases in the Senate. But this time, Nograles and Lagman and their allies are standing pat: should the 79 votes materialize, the impeachment will still have to be heard in the committee which will prepare a report on which every congressman will have to plenary.

I suspect that the opposition is making noise every day of the way because it is afraid it never have the modest 79 votes. I wonder if rightthinking lawmakers would go along with the opposition's desire to overthrow GMA in order to save Erap from a court conviction and push in "Resign All" and surrender guerrillaism agenda. As for the Left, their marshaling is not catching fire. As a tactic press conference by militant party-list representatives, with some people asked who among them had ever called a Comelec personnel during a campaign or postelection period, has a timid aura about.

* * *

A recent SWS poll is said to have found that 7 out of 10 adult Filipinos believe there are no presidents in the 1987 Constitution that need to be changed to the extreme. But then again, the same poll found out that only 3 out of 10 Filipinos knew the edge of the Constitution entailed "poor"; in fact, a huge 57 percent of the 1,200 respondents admitted having little or almost no knowledge of it. This only reflects on the poor standard of literacy, though that there is a big need to conduct a massive information and education drive on this issue. I believe that if the people were to be fully informed of the benefits of the parliamentary form of government, their fears over various aspects are addressed, they would embrace it.

* * *

The survey also found out that social climate is, I guess, continuously showed the most success in smoothing constitutional provisions, rather than the 8 and 5 clauses. This again is not surprising, as the Charter change issue belongs to the realm of the intellectuals and the better educated classes can appreciate it much easier. But this doesn't mean that the broad masses cannot appreciate it when it is fully explained. The task of educating the people ought to be spearheaded by the members of the House as well as local government executives. Charter change is not issue that can no longer be entrusted to the barrio, as to quote the late Senator Ninoy Aquino in the 70s, more and more enlightened people are backing the grass-roots.

A small scary story

HUMAN FACE
Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

WHILE big national issues rage, while the big guys sling it out in the national arena and play to the theoddiktory gallery, many Filipinos continue to live their little lives and struggle with their personal woes. If these narratives were projected on a big video wall, we, the spectators and passersby, would only scowl at the big, dark shadows and images overwhelm us. The morning and the night.

I pause from the hustle to hear the story of Jessie.

Jessie Filipinas keep on with their day-to-day chores, wondering when and how it will all end. In the meantime, the unemployed, compliants, dwindling the household with their wondering in the streets, the hungry children who have not eaten for an intermission and the cash their wandering spots so that we could take for a bundle of fresh air.

While the fighting goes on in the big arena, thanks to its life-size proportion in the media, our little lives are also in the line of fire. Jessie and her family live the top. The one of a dozen informants came to look after our own survival and safety. She is abused in the land and made its prey with freedom and impunity.

During the President's State of the Nation Address, when it seemed all the police and security forces were concentrated in our little area, the party and big politicians must have had a holiday.

Jessie's family was awakened from their sleep at 4 a.m. by the sound of gunfire. Then, it was the sound of everything as gun fired. Even if that were so, would they allow a citizen to be committed light inside their community? They just stood there and stare, after the incident, nobody even bothered to call the police. The only one heard was of the manager calling someone from her cell phone to say that a customer will not be able to pay because she was late laid up.

I had to take my daughter to the area near the latchkey kinder, because the entrance to the center she was to attend the hold-up man would come back. Everyone was just staring at us. I even had to instruct the manager to lock the door so that my daughter would have some feeling of assurance.

"I was in the kitchen and I heard the customers and staff of Bonsalar House the are being able to do anything. I asked where the security guard was. There was none.

I then thought of the cell phones, the cards and ATM cards of my mom taken. I asked the staff if I could use their phone so I could hear the cell phones blocked. Their phone had no dial tone. The two Bonsalar House on Quezon Avenue. The manager then me her cell phone. But I was trembling and had a nervous breakdown. I could not punch the any number. I sought their help for the hotline of Brian's and Stella and the credit card companies and the banks but nobody knew anything. I lost it and broke.

"On June 13, I experienced the incident in the Baler police station which had jurisdiction over the area. Everyone in the station was surprised to learn about the incident. They wondered why no one from the cable House reported the incident right after it happened so that I could do a follow-up. Then, after a few years, I realized no report right away because I learned the phones and the cards blocked that very night. I learned many strangers with me in the police station or the police. The police had heard many of the incidents in the cable House. The only thing I heard was a thank to do timidity and school was about to end.

"Friends who learned about the incident were alarmed why I was the only one held up and why it happened since it was almost closing time, why I was the only one in the area. Why I was the only one in the dark cafe and turned close to get my bag, why only my phones were taken and not those at the mall, why most of the women were so sick days from the guard of Bonsalar House area.

"Now I realize that I was the only one left in the area. She is fourth of men who enter restaurants, the area whether I am holding a my bag right enough, where my cell phone and car key are. If the armed someone thugs take her and then the armed security can see those guards who are supposedly to protect the customers and the staff, why some of the women were so sick days from the guard of Bonsalar House area.

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An apparent consensus

THE LONG VIEW
Manuel L. Quezon III

THE PERCENTAGE of Filipinos who want Charter change would have been enough to elect Fidel V. Ramos but not enough to elect Joseph Estrada. That's pretty pathetic. But it also, perhaps, explains why many supporters of Charter change, as proposed by the President, the National Movement for Federalism Reform, some from the ranks of Lakas-CMD, don't see the same people who voted Ramos into office in 1992.

Because we're talking about Charter change, which took place before the President's State of the Nation Address, shows that 50 percent of Filipinos want Charter change. That's 10 percent fewer than the 60 percent of Filipinos who favored Charter change in 2002. If the figures keep growing at that rate, we can look forward to a national consensus either by 2009, when at least 80 percent of Filipinos will be in favor of Charter change, or latest by, say, 2011, when perhaps 90 percent of Filipinos will be in favor of Charter change, or latest by 2013, when at least 95 percent of Filipinos will be in favor of Charter change.

But for now, 50 percent of the country is content with the present Constitution. That's an almost impregnable majority.

The 2007 vote for Filipinos to be present in favor of Charter change would be an almost impregnable majority of 60 percent against. Marianas is even more opposite to some traditional changes that came in the Visayas only 35 percent of the people in that island were in favor of change.

Another interesting finding of the survey is that the A, B and C classes are consistently the most opposed to Charter change, contrary to expectations. This points to other agenda for the executive, which is the elimination of the so-called mass vote (which is difficult to control) at least on a national basis. The reason the class has resistance where it is that it understands that it's really easier and more secure to democracy in which the public cannot relate to either the Charter or the parliamentarism by professional political class. This invades the class think itself the service of the government and consciousness when are high on charisma but low on values merge by or depth, depending on which part of the political-electoral circle we refer to.

Our public and our professionals have the best very nice values to be in. They call of the dangers of popularity and of weakened political parties, taken duty (or to be precise, state ascension) dismantled the safeguards against both popularity and the deterioration of party government. My first question is: Can the party-list system be improved to make it party-list based? The removal of the voting eliminated the international means for establishing both party and party-list systems.

The other flaws of the present system come about when those without political experience debate our political rules. The decision to encourage a multi-party system, without run-off elections, paved the way for the election of Joseph Estrada with 40 percent of the vote. The party-list system was supposed to lead to a true party system, which was included as "undemocratic." The removal of the voting eliminated the international means for establishing both party and party-list systems.

The other flaws of the present system come about when those without political experience debate our political rules. The decision to encourage a multi-party system, without run-off elections, paved the way for the election of Joseph Estrada with 40 percent of the vote. The party-list system was supposed to lead to a true party system, which was included as "undemocratic." The removal of the voting eliminated the international means for establishing both party and party-list systems.

Now, since it seems achieving a national consensus is more in keeping with the sentiment that rules among the political parties (Charter change, Lakas-CMD, Nacionalista, Liberal, Unido, Oido) that, for now, a group effort involving the Liberals, the Nacionalistas, the Nationalist People's Coalition, which is really the Nacionalista Party-Cojuangco Wing, and so on), there can be a consensus that the Senate is trying to constitute the public that the political parties should get what they desire. So it is, it seems to me that the public is, indeed, extremely institutionalist about measures. It likes having a presidency for many gile, even if it doesn't like the Penalino.

Marikina shoes, Batangas brews

ONE day, I found myself explaining to my girlfriend the functional necessity of foreign dicks and governments and cops and corruption. I decided to talk about cash and to unveil something to you guys, up to her parents. Would I accept some old dicks to rob from my collection consisting of one pair of military sneakers for casual wear, extra pair of Doc Martens bought from the scrap sale for formal occasions? She had explained that they were something I were wearing in my meetings with government officials and representatives of international institutions.

Being happy with two pairs of shoes was a nugget of wisdom I gotta say to, that the need to own more than 2 sneakers only two pairs for as long as I took good care of them and kept them clean. I, of course, followed the first part of his advice and promptly forgot the second (parents can only do so much for the attainment of their children). Wearing shoes was already a given paradigm shift for me, and bringing classic shoes seemed another lifetime of childhood conditioning.

I used to prefer sandals over shoes. Sandals were more comfortable to wear during marches or demonstrations almost everybody and everything. Quite often, the targets of such protests were the sacred limits and the government, whose representatives I have been cursing (rarely praising) for my girlfriend's parents to affix my choice old shoes. That offer prompted me to start my letters on foreign debt and governments and cops and corruption.

Military foreign debts, I told her, she could going to the Marikina Shoe Expo and get a pair. Her friends have told me friends, would not be there. Likewise, we would not have a pair in Batangas where we had breakfast a beach-filipino restaurant featured Mangpana.

She agreed, but quickly pointed out that I need to argue that foreign debts were the cause of our parent's woes. And they came with a lot of political cost, she added, sounding like I need to.

I could not remember any imperialist maneuvers in any of the times that I had intended recently. But I did recall that the World Bank insisted that those who had to be rewarded in Manufacturing Belt (read: Metro Manila) as they (the bulwark of the petroleum of families to be rewarded in Batangas be assured of employment. That's my job, I told her.

I used to demand the same things in the streets, shouting and hurling in the mouth, but the power was there all along. Now I get to decide personally in my air-conditioned office anyway. Her parents, like millions, are oblivious needed. Philippine laws require that its people and the environment be taken care of. I almost locked my own keys for knowing all that just recently, after nearly getting this course from all the cars I got from being in the streets.

Then I told her about her attention to government officials. She thought a queer when I told her government officials, like other people, are basically good. Her job have been because they are victims of bureaucracy—and unfortunately are unable do without it. I cannot look for the future is rife, when large sums of borrowing that things needed for many and that, to get into power and many the painstaking processes to deliver their visions, only to find themselves suddenly wallowing in the same mess. Our governments in he Iraqis a Filipino (I chose even natured can't use it has a process of "managing land".

But totally corruption is fantastically evil, my girlfriend protested.

In reply, I told her that some of our country's best and brightest are in the government service and they are getting paid less than their counterparts in the private sector, in some kind of a "reverse brain drain."

She told me she was beginning to believe that I was taking opium—the one that Karl Marx had warned about—or that I was taking too much caffeine from all those Batangas brews.

I pointed out to her that she must have noted incompetent people in the words I said. Most all... I was since the long of opinions (which is probably generic) and maybe I was just trying to convince myself about what I said. Nonetheless, I have long been cured of the Bagong man syndrome. I cannot save the world. I can have pot, maybe in time. I can also email pictures of the homes, the exercises of justice, freedom and the brotherhood of arts whenever I can.

My girlfriend and I are struggling to maintain a long-distance relationship. She sends me notices about job openings in the two republics. And she's helping me save for a new pair of shoes.

Ross E. Burtonian, 28, is a project manager in environmental management consulting firm based in Los Robles, Laguna.

YOUNG BLOOD

Rene R. Borromeo

He went to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? He interviewed twenty-somethings. From the front pages to the back...—Ed.

THEY SAID

Actors

"You all seem out for good politicians for all politicians must be good actors."
—Filipino filed in reply to outgoing President Macapagal-Arroyo

Liberty films

"Uncle Ben gave the power to those things. [As filmmakers] we have an obligation to uplift the minds of the audience, to liberate them from the traditions and values they've grown accustomed with to mainstream films. That's how I define the indie movement. Films that are free from everything and that can free everyone."
—Raffy Tima on himself on how shooting the indie way gives an overall outlook

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS

If you are sending your contributions by e-mail, please say so in your e-mail. Including a paper can get together with your address and information about your age and the school, course and year you'd enrolled in or if employed, the job description you're holding and the company you are in with.

—Editor's Desk

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Where the true battle is

I COMMEND President Macapagal-Arroyo for her gallant efforts to lead the nation in the midst of political turmoil. As an ordinary citizen, I would like to throw my piso for Filipinos to work for a strong economy back to her (I take it) focus this nation, what should she do to bring it forward. Suggestions without her endless retinue of advisers (who have their own interests to protect) are?

Given the great power and responsibility she has been vested with, what can she give the Filipino people/cabinet up to? The raising cost of living and the increasing northern class are basic musts.

As the Senate wades to prosecute for the ouster of the poor, she should not forget the broad labor force—those of us who make the economic superbody and engines of this nation run, and who pay the proper income taxes regularly. The financial pressure makes us feel like we're being sucked into the vicious cycle of poverty, from which we have worked so hard and long to desperately to get away.

The battle is not in the streets or in the halls of Malacañang. The true battle is in the dreams I have: a shot on the right side?

—JUT MIGUEL ROXAS, JR.
Associate Vice-Chancellor
Laboratories for U.
L/G Ricketts Corporate Towers
Madrigal Business Park,
Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City

In fairness to EPCIB directors, officers

TODS it in reaction to Conrado Bautista's column, "Of a sort broke," (PDI, 8/2/05) I have previously opted to remain silent despite the continuing slander of board members of the Equitable PCIBank and some of its directors and officers, but I believe it is now incumbent upon me to react to his duty to do justice to the reputation of all the parties.—Antonio L. Go who represented the Go family, 666 pensions and CEO Antonio S. de la Paz, EXECpresident and general manager Arthur F. Garcia, lawyer Northwest Bienki G. Benavidez who represented Banco Mindo Inan Corp., and lawyer Atty. T. Bruno—who attended the meetings called by Banjulo Bautista Governor Amando M. Tetangco, Jr. on July 20.

As president and CEO, I was requested to be present in new meetings. The meetings were called for the sole purpose of executing that the funds can continue to conduct normal operations and service the needs of its clients. It was clear to all the parties that any suggestions to be discussed during the meetings will all be pursuant to the said objective—the protection of the bank and its stakeholders.

Bautista's statement that "the Yuchengco group simply wanted the government side to give way to the Go family" is a malicious lie which casts aspersions on all those who were in the meetings. Discussed in the meetings were three main topics:

1. To allow the EPCIB's management to continue running the day-to-day affairs of the bank and to exercise its authority under the bank's previously granted by it.

2. To administer known public documents of the shareholder's case as these may come within consent on the part of the bank's clients and depositors.

3. For the major shareholder groups, to continue discussions as to the final resolution of the said case. Issues can be arrived at as soon as possible, including the final composition of the board, where all shareholder groups would have the proper representation by virtue of their proportionate shares in the bank.

I can attest that the discussions were very open and cordial. There was never any impression on the part of the shareholders' representatives that the BSP panel was dictating to them.

It is very sad that Bautista would make up a story portraying that the meetings, whereas he was not even present, had objectives other than restoring the confidence of the bank and its clients. I do not know what motivated him to resort to a predicated column that, which none of the parties in the meetings ever saw.

I also take this opportunity to comment on Bautista's continuing lies against my person and his all repeated statements that I have been siding with the Go family. I believe that the facts proof that this allegation is false and one which is not shared by any of the major shareholder groups in the fact that the existing management team under my leadership was elected by both boards of directors.

—HENRY CHUNG YITTAYA,
president and
chief executive officer,
Equitable PCI Bank, Makati City

LETTERS

RP educated

RE167 is this frontrunner of the Philippine media to comment by noted NGO Chris Mercado (Chris) as a US-educated economist? In her biography (Office of the President Website), it is told that she did not graduate from Georgetown University but from Assumption College, Angeles city. Inside. She got her master's degree in economics from the Ateneo de Manila University and her doctorate from the University of the Philippines. Her three thesis instructors are still in place in the Philippines. Shouldn't being a product of the supposedly premier universities of the country be a source of pride?

Having a few courses in a US university—like a summer law workshop at Harvard, or a summer course at the New York University Film school—does not automatically make a person US-educated. It is no guarantee to claim being US-educated. Or just a few courses in the US. Many of the top government officials of leading in the Philippines also had their education in their own diplomas earned from there and would rather highlight a Philippine talent at a US university?

I am still proud of being a product of Philippine education. I am a proud alumnus of the Saint Louis University in Baguio City, not St. Louis, Missouri!) despite having a real DA education. (I got an advanced degree from a research university in Baltimore, Maryland.) I'm insulted when I get, I will admit, by a true blue Caucasian, and a proud Filipino.

—JOSE HILES,
defense consultant upon

Wrong on Newsbreak

RE 183 July 29 column, 'Ve Agaton clarvoiced Newsbreak and the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ), classifying them among the "Philippine paid press." He said that by receiving grants from foreign institutions, we are "silently shining the nonnational line on foreign ownership of local media and foreign lobby investments." Agaton is wrong on both counts.

Accepting foreign grants does not, by any means, make the grantee an owner of the institution or admit the grant is given. Newsbreak and the PCIJ are applicable institutions. However, we have always disclosed our grants. If Agaton did his research at all, he would have known all of them. And we would gladly have uncovered any inquiries from him. But once at least, he wrote without any query for facts.

Agaton is unclear about "foreign lobby investments." If he is implying that Newsbreak, by receiving foreign grants, is lobbying for certain interests, then he's way off the mark. Our stories speak for themselves. In the five years that we've been around, we've tried our best to be independent and, like many hard-working journalists, we have adhered to the rigorous standards of professionalism.

He also got the information wrong that "majority of the Newsbreak staffers are themselves correspondents or figure for the foreign press" and then "a number of them also report to the same Washington bureau." Both editors that [Raymond] Bonner [of the New York Times] reports to." Of the 10 full-time editorial staff, I am the only one who writes for a foreign publication, The Sun, writing for Newsweek since 1990. None of us writes for the New York Times or the International Herald Tribune.

Agaton is also dishonest. Referring to the Newsbreak special edition on federalism, he writes that we received a grant from the Ateneo Embassy, he mentioned that we carried a whole-page spread on Turkey and Geneva, "complete with a smiling image of, no joke, Swiss Ambassador 'Ian' Navez." What he deliberately omitted is the fact that we carried a two-page spread on Australia and ascribed two-page spread on Canada [with a picture of the Canadian ambassador], and the reason why we did. We featured 11 of the 15 most livable cities, as ranked by the Economist Intelligence Unit, and they happen to be in these countries [and] the.

Recently, I don't know what Agaton has against Bonner and his story on Newsbreak ("Magsaysay challenges manila editor," New York Times and the International Herald Tribune, July 28 and 29, respectively). This set off his baseless tirades against us. Could it be that he can't bear "approving" coverage on other members of the Philippine press?

—MARITES DAÑGUILAN VITUG,
editor-in-chief, Newsbreak,
Another Drive,
Bridgetown, Manila City

WE'D APPLAUD to the quote check in the fourth paragraph of the above letter, the original column also mentions PCIJ staffers "...like the group of the Newsbreak/PCIJ staffers...are themselves correspondents/writers for the foreign press."—Ed.

TagBox

Question of the Week

Do you support the moves to impeach the President?

Readers of at least 25 texts as published in Tuesday's TagBox *will each receive an "Inquirer Shirt!"*

E-mail: ar_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Joel Sandoval
Bureau Chief Florante G. Solmirano

Settlers fight for historic swampland

By Gil Francis G. Arevalo
Legazpi City

FOR ALMOST 70 years, Juliano Orral's family and some 800 others have lived in Barangay Victory Village at the heart of Legazpi City. Today, they face a serious challenge to their continued stay in what was once marshland.

The village occupies five hectares of foreshore area. Old-timers say it was a mangrove swamp before the Legazpi City Shorelines Reclamation Inc. (LCSRI) — which is composed of 19 organizations of informal settlers in the provincial capital's 37 barangays — was formed.

Although a number only participate in this village, which has been considered foreshore area since time immemorial, have private owners, and based on our research, more than three hectares of this area have already been declared titled lots," said Orral, 62.

Some parts of Victory are still swampy and buried on a volcanic ash were dated Nov. 5, 1915. The area was awarded by the Bureau of Lands to Sotero Ledesma Jr. on Dec. 29, 1926.

Lotus Chavez, acting LCSRI president, also considered how certain lots within the village had been titled through court decisions as early as 1926.

"If you examine the boundaries, locations and even the names in this place, you'll see that the numbers of the corresponding titled lots are sufficient to cover the land. We have our files but titled if it's a waste now?"

No watchdogs

City planning and development coordinator Joseph Espinosa confirmed that based on their records, most parts of the titled lots were indeed part of the foreshore area.

The lots could have been titled as early as World War II, primarily because no agencies monitored any illegal titling transactions then, Espinosa said.

He said people found it easy to own titled lands, even if these were foreshore or swamp areas. "All one needed to do was bring papers to documents to Manila to have them though titled. That was what happened to Victory Village," he said.

City register Emelia Aseron gave the Inquirer copies of the certificates of land titles covering the entire area of the village and numbers of the titled lots.

There are three titled lots that the courts, through the Register of Deeds, have forcibly occupied. These are Lot No. 8277 with an area of 19,887 sqm and owned by Estrella Luz, Juliano Orrpan and Gregorio Imperial; area 1870, Lot No. 8274 (11,208 sqm), owned by Salvador Llagunas since 1990 until it was claimed by Ely Lopez; and Lot No. 11123 (4,209 sqm), owned by Pedro Banks since 1959 until it was transferred to Benito de Villa in 1973 and then to Esperanza Capco, owner of Arellano University, at the same time.

The total area of the occupied private lots is 35,516 sqm.

Aseron stressed that the court recognized various transfers of ownership.

Although the lots' actual sizes and locations and the owners' first were acquired might be questionable, as claimed by the settlers, he said he could not do anything but to effect the transfers in accordance with law.

The Register of Deeds and most of the landowners were not residents of Bicol but permanent ly staying in Manila.

Court decision

What compelled the residents to file the petition was the recent decision of the Supreme Court (SC) affirming the Regional Trial Court's (RTC) decision in favor of Capco.

The SC decision, dated Feb. 23, 2005, ordered Orral and 10 others to vacate the lots they occupied and pay Capco P1,000 monthly rental fee for each lot.

Orral said the SC decision was based on "false information" that the lots were originally titled in 1926. In World War II, areas Victory Village was submerged in water. Up to the present, it is still swampland.

The Bureau of Lands regional office admitted that it did not have records or documents to show how most areas of Victory Village had been titled through court decisions.

"Even before we assumed office here and even before Ely Lopez's name was mentioned, it was already declared such decisions, it was not even a legislative decision, under our office but rather a judicial decision," said land management officer Teodolfo Fernando.

In a dialogue with the residents on June 27, Armando said the titles indicated that these were all reconstituted based on decrees issued as certificates by the land Registration Authority in Quezon City in the early 1950s.

Historical

Victory Village is one of the most significant historical places, not only in Legazpi but also in the entire region. During the Battle of Legazpi between Filipino revolutionaries and Americans on Jan. 25, 1900, the area served as the headquarters formed by the 33rd regiment "Macabebe."

The village became famous during the American amphibious landing on April 1, 1945, when allied forces of local guerrillas and US soldiers finally liberated the Japanese forces. The American colonel stayed at Victory Village because it was the only place in the region where they remained unconquered.

It was considered a strategic military area. Un Espanol-Akao Hill (Gleaming Lion Hill), the allied forces could easily monitor any preemptive attacks by the Japanese.

Records and old photos from the Legazpi Museum show that as early as 1911, Victory Village was underdeveloped and submerged in water. It was exclusively a rural, area occupied fisherfolk only.

Hence, the Legazpi port was constructed in the late 1940s, people flocked to the village and stayed there for good.

Fear of eviction

The LCSPI found it very confusing that concerned agencies appeared helpless although they were aware of the real situation and the flaws in the duties of the titles shown to them.

Now, the residents fear being evicted sooner or later.

They have two options, according to Armando: convince the court and the private landowners that the village is foreshore area and cannot be titled, or, if titled through titles but can only be leased, or negotiate to buy the property.

If they insist on staying, the Office of the Solicitor General will investigate the case and evaluate all records to decide their fate. If they agree to negotiate, everything will depend on their coordination with the city government and the generosity of the landowners.

Orral said the residents were willing to purchase the property if the price is affordable.

But for now, they are determined to fight it out, she said.

JUANITA Orral, a resident of Victory Village, shows a marker placed by Japanese soldiers during World War II to indicate where they supposedly hid their arms and ammunition at Kapantukan Hill.

Bicol marine sanctuary's top guard braves threats

By Gil Francis Arevalo
Inquirer Corr

HE HAS gotten used to confronting threats, harassment and danger from illegal fishermen, especially those involved in blast and cyanide fishing.

Benito Bonito, chair of the San Miguel Island Marine Protected Area Management Board, recently received reinforcements in Bicol's only marine and with a new seaside fishery sanctuary where fishing is not allowed. He for 18 Barangay Dagat (sea guard) volunteers.

"I'm ready to die for the sake of protecting this sanctuary. For more than a decade in bed of this channel, I've seen and experienced the blast fishing and cyanide fishing that it can give not only to this island but also to the local folk as well," Bonito said, adding:

"Our sacrifices have really paid well and for once, we can be the free of us, believed that we would continue for."

Since the early '90s, when he and his family decided to permanently stay in Barangay Dagat, San Miguel Island, Bonito has been Bonito's devotion to put up a well-managed coastal ecological habitat in the area. San Miguel is a 30-minute ferry boat ride from Pilar, Sorsogon, the province's capital city of Legazpi.

But with come true in 1994. Together with Prof. Victor Balaoing, head of the research team of Bicol University's Fisheries Department, and Jaime Bermis, coordinator of the City Planning and Development Council, Bonito recently wanted to establish the first seaside fishery reserve in the region. Both the local community serving as co-managers.

The SMMMPB covers 2.25 sq km of marine protected area in the Lagonoy Gulf.

Its management council is composed of women leaders, divers and a few volunteers who wade and monitor the place, Bonito said.

The city government spends about P600,000 yearly as financial assistance to the SMMMPB, as well as providing environmental issues of livelihood for fishers.

Risky

Being part of the fishery reserve's council and Bantay Dagat program has never been safe, Bonito learned. Earning only P950 a month for a 24/7 monitoring job, he faces various forms of harassment and danger every day. He has to spend two years his time with his family and there were moments when he wanted to quit the council for a peaceful life and to concentrate on raising two of his loved ones.

"But I realized through the years I have already embraced all this noble commitment for the future of this island," he said. "Within that span of years, of course, I have always nourished the fear that because of my being persistent to apprehend the culprits, my family will also be at risk."

Now he again is dealing with illegal fishermen who have guns and dynamites that threat him, he knows that I need this most of the time," he said.

The council has apprehended many illegal fishermen from other province or town from the island twenty of them. With the support of the local police, most of the culprits have been prosecuted and imprisoned.

Bonito said that since the story about the SMMMPB came out in the Inquirer in August 2004, the incidence of illegal fishing has been reduced.

"My family is proud of my work; the support I get from the local government, a Peace Corps volunteer from the US, and the fishermen on this barangay is overwhelming. But most of all, I'm proud that we have already gained the respect of both the people here and the illegal fishermen," he said.

Chance one

Bonito grew up not on San Miguel Island, but in Legazpi. When he married Leticia, he settled on the island for good. Now 52, with seven children, he is the only one among seven siblings who has opted to live Miguel since the 1980s. His brothers and sisters are in Manila, Legazpi and South Arabia.

Bonito never went to college and was not considered by his parents and relatives as the "black sheep of the family." He was never serious about schooling but has a passion for caring for the environment—the reason he loves to travel and observe lifestyles in the local areas in Albay.

In 1979, he worked as maintenance operator for Lotelle Electric Co., now the Albay Electric Cooperative. It was the only type of work he could have since he is only a high school graduate, he said.

But from the time he took the most risky role in his career—to protect the area that he is the chosen one for the job.

Bonito said that the moment he stepped on the shores of San Miguel, all he could think of was how to preserve and protect it. He could not explain that urge but all he knew is that it's his destiny to guard the island.

"I don't think that it would come this far if Tay Bonito was not the head of the SMMMPB council. He has the qualities of being in touch with nature," said Nelson, the city planning and development coordinator.

Environmentalists and conservationists from the US Peace Corps have been surprised by what the marine fishery guardian has accomplished despite the personal risk and violence he faces daily.

Rewarding

Bonito had Datugali Bid passing up the project would just be a waste. "Instead, I opted [to] defend, on the part of the city government. It took them several years before their efforts reaped success.

Local fisherfolk had been suffering from dwindling fish catch due to the massive destruction of mineral coral reefs of the island due to rampant blast and cyanide fishing.

Most of the residents had also considered the SMMMPB project thinking that they would be restricted forever from fishing in the marine sanctuary.

But since Bonito was elected as head of the management council and a campaign was waged against illegal fishing, fish catch has increased three to five times, he estimated. The islanders noted the return of squids, mackerels, groupers, lobsters, sardines, silver fish, mackerels, seals, sharpies, spinefoot fish and others in quantity.

Interestingly, mariners have witnessed the fast recovery of coral coral cover, which now again becomes suitable for scuba diving and viewing of marine life-forms, Bonito said.

In 2002, the SMMMPB was adjudged second best managed sea by Philippine Reefs. According to a recent assessment of Bicol University researchers, the coral cover is rich fish diversity, total coverage of corals, seagrass and seaweed beds, and large swimming-eligible fishers.

Legacy

The management council is now planning residents to scuba diving and seamlessly monitoring the sanctuary. Bonito is coordinating with Coco Kalingo, a marine biologist and Peace Corps volunteer from Seattle, who is managing the residents.

Last month, four members of Bantay Dagat started taking lessons on basic scuba diving as part of a three-day course with instructors from the PADI.

"I can hope that in the soonest possible time, the local government will provide modern guard gear and a floating guard house, and that we can have an operational speedboat," said Barangay Tabaco Captain to make possible to build diving gadgets for how to use Bantay Dagat volunteers," Bonito said.

HISTOR Bonito, chair of the San Miguel Island Marine Fishery Reserve, leads 18 Bantay Dagat volunteers in patrolling the sanctuary off Tabaco City on Albay.

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Across the NATION

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Marine park shut to pave way for probe

By Christine Guyilan

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources has closed for an indefinite period the Ocean Adventure in Subic Bay Freeport Zone until its officials comply with the DENR's requirements, including an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC).

A crane and divers' suits found by the DENR Environment and Management Bureau said the Ocean Adventure, managed by the Subic Bay Marine Exploratorium Inc. (SBMEI), would have to suspend its operations as the DENR "screws allegations that the park violated laws against animal treatment and abuse of whales."

"We need to close it down to review their operations because of the death of some whales. Technically and legally, the Ocean Adventure management did not renew an ECC from us," Defensor said in separate interviews with reporters.

He said the agency deemed it necessary to uphold the decision issued recently by the Court of Appeals on May 26, 2004 that the management of the Ocean Adventure had to secure an ECC from the DENR before operating the park.

Defensor added that the DENR's Environment Management Bureau will lead the investigation team that would study the operations of the SBMEI and determine if it was complying with environmental standards on marine parks.

"We would've seen or know if the claims of non-governmental groups are true and if the marine animals of the park are properly cared for and if their current environment is suitable to them," he said.

Ocean Adventure offers "swim with the whales" and dolphin shows, usually to groups of vacationists from Metro Manila. In a separate statement, the SBMEI management said they welcome the DENR's move and will have another meeting on ECC with the DENR.

"We are already talking to the DENR and we welcome the move of Secretary Ramon Paje Jr. to close down the park," the statement said.

Defensor said the DENR will complete the resolution of the issue and declare the way for us to get a separate ECC from the DENR, to compliance with the earlier ruling of the Court of Appeals," said Eugenio Magdaong, Ocean Adventure vice president for corporate affairs, in a statement.

The Earth Island Institute-Philippines (EII) and the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) sought the closure of the marine park in Subic Bay and called on environment and health officials to close the two false killer whales (Pseudorca crassidens) in the park's captive pool in the park.

The whales and another sea lion are said in assessment drawn at the park.

The groups issued the call following the death of a female false killer whale in the park on July 6.

The EII and PAWS said US military forces that used Subic as a naval base for decades have not done anything to remove toxic biochemical, possibly nuclear, wastes dumped into Subic Naval Base.

They said the SBMA also has no proper sewerage system and wastes flow directly into the bay.

ONE of the divers featured in Ocean Adventure, swims with the whales.

ROUNDUP

Korean survives ambush

CAMP AGUINALDO, Luzon—Barely three days after a Japanese tourist was shot dead in Tarlac, Sunday, a Korean national survived an ambush in Sta. Rosa, Batangas, as Korean national survived an ambush in Sta. Batangas just before midnight Monday. Police said Jun Woo Park, 43, a native of Chun Jeong Kwanun, South Korea, was driving his motorcycle along a dirty-lit road in the area when an unidentified suspect suddenly appeared from the road side and shot him. Jun suffered a bullet wound in the right knee and was rushed to the Medicina General Hospital in Batangas. The suspect immediately fled on foot. Police said the motive behind the shooting is still unknown. He said that Jun's police identify the motive for the shooting. Alexis Romero, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Fare hike in Naga

NAGA (3/19)—Commuters here are in for a P1-increase in fare in tricycles, known here as Motorelleds, after the provincial bike ride approved at the city council's regular session Tuesday. Councilor Nicolas Jose Gregorio said that Motorelleds operators and drivers association's association to grant the increase from P5 to P6. In regards that the P1-hike in motorelle fare would be submitted on Monday to the regular session of the council as a proposed ordinance. While the increase becomes recommended is here, the passengers in the motorelle route Naga City, like Magsaysay and Camaya, have a second reasoning that adds up to at least P5.00 for a two-way fare inside the city limits as a motorelle's symbol after the increase in passenger fare from P5.00 to P7.00. Jun Evangelista Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Hike in ferry service

DUMAGUETE CITY—The provincial bus operators here is denying a 25-percent increase in the passenger fare it is facing a certain operating between Mindanao Dumaguete and Luzon and Visayas provinces. In a public announcement, the Dumaguete Shipping Co. stated would also patronize fare from P12 to P15 beginning Aug. 1 to compensate for the continuous rise in bunker fuel prices, which is increasing their operating costs. This fare increase is the second in less than two years. Back a year ago, the company hiked fare from P10 to P12 for a similar reason. The ferry service is the principal means of crossing the narrow Tañon Strait that separates the two provinces. Some 2,000 vehicles and close to 5,000 passengers cross the bay every day. Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Councilor stabbed dead

MANDAUE CITY—A municipal councilor was ambushed and killed on July 23 in Barangay Centro-Poblacion, Sta. Fe, Bantayan Island, Southern Cebu. Municipal Councilor Leonardo Ely Jr. of Liloan later died at the provincial hospital due to multiple stabs in different parts of the body. Police said Ely was driving a motorcycle with his wife, Conchita, riding in the back at about 5:30 p.m. on Monday. Two suspects, one of them wearing a helmet, suddenly grabbed Ely from the motorcycle and stabbed him repeatedly. The wife of the councilor reached a secluded highway in Barangay Talisay, Bantay. Jose Arnal , PDI Visayas Bureau

2 men found dead

CAMP GEN. ALEJO SANTOS, Bulacan—Two men were found dead in two separate areas in Bulacan last week. Supt. Rolando Nana, police chief of Bulacan police provincial office, said the body of Ramon Manaligod, 52, floating in a river in the village on July 28. Elvira and Mendoza was stabbed and tracked by his companions during a drinking spree at a fish pond in Plaridel, Bulacan. In another incident, a group of scavengers found the body of Arnold Dalida, 28, in a pile of garbage near a fish pond in Barangay San Roke, Pandi, Bulacan on July 29. Dalida's body had stab and slash wounds. Police arrested Ruben Jimenez, 22, who, they said, attacked Dalida after the latter failed to settle an P800 debt. Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Push for parliament urged

DAVAO CITY—House Majority Floorleader Prospero Nograles asked provinces and mayors of local government units to immediately pass local resolutions in support a federal parliamentary system of government to send a strong signal to senators that local governments want the measure. "Senators are known to change their minds on important issues. If we show strong support from the local government units, mayors, governors and others," he said in a statement. He said they would need to convince the senators that they have to listen to the clamor of the people. Anthony Alinda, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Palawan opposition stalls transfer to W. Visayas

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The transfer of Palawan and Puerto Princesa City from Southern Tagalog's Region 4-B to Western Visayas faces strong initial opposition from the Palawan provincial board and questions on the legality of the transfer.

Rafael Coscolluela, presidential adviser for Western Visayas, said "it might be reasonable to defer the transfer" in the wake of the objections of Palawan officials.

Aiko, he said, there was no request issued for the transfer in view of the current political crisis in the country.

The Department of Interior and Local Government earlier announced that the two cities will be held on Aug. 16 at the Mambosed Hall in Manila town, Negros Occidental.

Coscolluela said he would arrange a dialogue between President Benigno Aquino and Palawan officials to discuss the latter's opposition to the transfer.

"The President will consider what is good for the provinces concerned," said Coscolluela.

The Palawan provincial board unanimously passed a resolution on July 26, "expressing vehement opposition" to Executive Order 429 issued by Ms Arroyo in May transferring Palawan and Puerto Princesa City to Western Visayas.

The board said Ms Arroyo "violated the constitutional right of Palawanites to public consultation ..." because EO 429 was issued without consultation with officials and residents of the province.

The board also passed a separate resolution supporting House Bill 3108 authored by Ozamiz Rep. Alliance Ubial Jr. for cede for the establishment of a "Southeastern Tagalog Region," including Palawan and its capital Puerto Princesa City.

Vice Gov. David Puno de Leon, in a telephone interview yesterday, said he has asked the provincial board to submit resolutions from town councils on their positions on the issue.

He said many Palawanites expressed fears that the transfer would make transactions with government offices difficult because there is no direct transportation between Palawan and Iloilo, the supposed center of Western Visayas.

He said the transfer could also raise the electric cooperative currently providing power to Palawanites would be under the Visayas grid, which charges higher than the Luzon grid.

They said the SBMA also has no proper sewerage system and wastes flow directly into the bay.

Turtles trapped in fish pens released in Puerto

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Six green and two Hawksbill turtles that were separately trapped in fish pens in two villages here were released back to the sea on Monday morning.

Authorities placed tags on the turtles before releasing them. All the turtles that have been tagged and released have not returned since.

Two green and two Hawksbill turtles were trapped in the fish pen of Imelda Mesanat Jr., a resident of Barangay Inagawan, some 12 km from the city proper, while two other green turtles were also entrapped in the fish pen of Barangay resident Danilo Gardiano of Barangay Sta. Lucia.

The green turtles weighed 35 kilos each while each Hawksbill turtle weighed 50 kilos.

This was not the first time that turtles were trapped in Mesanat's fish pen. Last month alone, five green turtles were trapped in his pen and last year, there were nine.

Mesanat said he expected more turtles to be trapped in the coming months. "Last year, it was until the month of October that there were turtles getting trapped," he said.

Mesanat said he would not be losing something, he said, is that the area is a migratory path for marine habitats.

In Barangay Olangan, a schoolchild had bought a sea turtle from a vendor in Bohol town to raise the animal from there.

Protasio Tiza, president of the Pangasinag Lalangan Federation College in Barangay Sarsuyan, said he bought the turtle in Barangay Sarsuyan, Solano for P1,500, half of its original price of P3,000.

He said the vendor told him the turtle was caught off Pinkes Annex. Tiza said he fed and kept the turtle in their family's swimming pool before he turned it over to environment officials on Sunday.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources officials here said the turtle would be released to the shores of Apurit, Cagayan here Clarisel Ibale, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Ben Moses Abreu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

A CHILD poses with a sea turtle bought by Purlema Tiza, president of PCLT College in Bayombong. Nueva Vizcaya who later turned over the turtle to the DENR.

Brains of journalist's slay free to roam

CEBU CITY—The alleged masterminds in the March 24 murder of journalist Marlene Esperat are free to move around more after a local court in Tarragona City recalled the arrest warrants issued against them.

Judge Francis Belmonte of the Regional Trial Court Branch 20 recalled on July 25 the arrest warrants against Jaime Sabal and Estrella Sabay after the Department of Justice granted the suspects' petition for review of the charges against them.

Mercader, finance officer, and Sabay, regional accountant, of the Department of Agriculture (DA) in Region 12 dismissed the testimony of suspect, former army sergeant Rowie Barua, could not be used against them because he did not plead guilty.

Nena Santos, private counsel for the victim's family, blamed the DOJ for meddling and bungling the Esperat case.

"Heaven hands were trying to obstruct-ish the case," Santos said.

The two suspected masterminds have repeatedly warned expecting to their office after the court recalled the warrants of arrest.

"So they were just around. The police did not arrest them. With what is happening, I'm afraid the killing of journalists would continue," Santos said.

In this developed, Supt. Ariel Huesca Arnaiz, jail warden of the General Santos City Jail in Lagao, Apopong Village here, told reporters that he received reports about an alleged plot to kill suspects Jerry Cabayog, Bienvidez Bantuzan and Randy Garcia.

Cabayog, the self-confessed gunman, as well as Palanteras and Garcia, who served as lookouts, pleaded guilty to the crime during the hearing of the case before Palanteras' aide.

Cabayog, during an interview, said they were aware of the plan to kill them and that they already organized the DOJ to expedite their transfer to another facility. Aquilino Pimentel, PDI Mindanao Bureau

METRO
Edited by Cleo Calimag

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Text or your feedback:

Fake reporters nabbed for extortion

By DJ Yap

TWO MEN who had posed as reporters were arrested yesterday for allegedly trying to solicit money from Pampanga Gov. Mark Lapid, owning their own members of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP).

Arrested were Jerry Garcia, 29, and Billy David, 32, who identified themselves as reporters for the Pampanga-based Tagapuno and Pasad Buno Balitaan, respectively, police said.

NUJP director and Tabloid newsvillor Ates Dalmeron said he personally received a solicitation letter to Lapid's office claiming their were NUJP members, and had organized funds for their participation at the "9th National Congress of NUJP" in Baguio. The two allegedly asked for ₱1,000 for each member of "their 15-member delegation," a check with the NUJP or his (Lapid's) staff revealed that there was no such convention. The two were not NUJP members, Dalmeron said.

In an entrapment operation, police apprehended the pair as they received ₱2,000 in marked money. Coins and fiscal later admitted that they needed the money for a "fiesta" in their hometown, Intramuros added.

JIMMY Gutierrez (left) and Billy David are presented to media after their arrest for extortion along Roxas Marcos in Quezon City. The two reportedly posed as news reporters to solicit funds for a supposed congress of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines. NUJP

It's a go for new bus route plan on Edsa

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and transport groups finally found a common ground yesterday on the controversial Department of Transportation and Communications' bus rapid transit system along Edsa.

The MMDA said it would begin the full implementation of the EDSA bus speed.

Willing to try

"I think the transport groups have realized how difficult it is to do business under the present setup, so they are more willing to give the scheme a try," said Assistant Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Traffic Operations Center Director Eric Dacoycoy.

The DBS, a first-in-the-world transit dispatch system in operation for two months along Edsa, was recently applied in Sept by a Makati court in a ruling on an injunction case filed by transport groups that branded the scheme a "monopoly of trade". The MMDA and the system would ensure more convenient loading of buses to ease round trip, boosting profits and savings on fuel expenses.

The agency has already studied five terminals to accommodate inter-transit to and from the northern commuters, terminals were set up at the Metropolis Mall, Alabang, Muntinlupa City; PTI in Buendia, Taguig City; and Bachelor's in Mabolo in City Terminals to southern Metro Manila include one in Novaliches and another in Malanday, Valenzuela City. The MMDA also has a operating terminal complex in Novaliches, Quezon City.

Tamper-proof cards

Tamper-proof color-coded access cards have also been tested and for distribution to users.

"The commuters' votes, if the commuters would even more become of the scheme as we believe they would, we would continue implementing the scheme," said Nonpakelet Diaz.

Of after months of observation we can find it's not working. Then we would fix the loopholes in, if the future permits, we would abort the scheme, "he continued.

Issues reconciled

Issues on the DBS were reconciled Tuesday in a meeting between MMDA officials and some 20 representatives from bus companies, marketing owners and officials of Inter-Transport, Grand Express, Rizcall Liner, Ogo Trans port, Saint Rose Transit, Original Transport, Filipinas Transverse and Everlasting Transport. Of the Metro Manila-based bus operators' organizations, only the Inverder Bus Operators Association (Interbus) sent a representative to the meeting.

Despite the absence of representatives from other transport groups, the MMDA said it would continue the implementation of the scheme. The DBS was first implemented on an experimental basis in December 2003.

METROBRIEFS

Spurned partner nearly hacks cup

A POLICEMAN could not detour when his love-to partner smashed something to many used one on his. That was the story of how Al Gutierrez also filed an attempted homicide suit against Lesley Hermogenes Lubguban over the events set to have excited he refused. At the time the woman allegedly got a knife while wearing hers of "storming he strength to another woman." DJ Yap

BMBS Batch '62 meeting

THE MOST RECENT meeting of Batch 1962 of Marikina Bilingual High School-Bautista will be on Aug. 6, 2005 at the home of Angie Pangandaman at 20 Comadon St., Barangka Ibaba, Marikina. Tawagang Sina, Gina Ilig, at 654-6 Ay responses call Angie at 687-7020 (home) 527-9000, 527-0009-32 (office) and 0917-817-8888 or LilaPerlas@yahoo.com. Deadline is September 15.

PNP tracking down Roldan woman friend

By Gilbert C. Tanales Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE National Police has started operations to track down Sammy Wang, the alleged girlfriend of former congressman and actor Dennis Roldan, who is facing kidnapping charges in connection with the

"The PNP is coordinating with other government agencies, and now tracing the whereabouts of Wang to give the way for the eventual arrest," a statement from the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response Director said yesterday.

The Pasig City Regional Trial Court has already issued an arrest warrant against Wang after finding probable cause in the case the Department of Justice filed against her.

Roldan, whose real name is Marshall Garambas, and Wang had been accused of masterminding the kidnapping of a 5-year-old boy in February.

The couple's group allegedly asked for P200 million from the victim's family at the start of the negotiations, in exchange for the release of their son.

Roldan, and five other co-accused, have pleaded not guilty to the charges during their arraignment last other day.

After the arraignment, Roldan immediately filed an application for bail, saying the prosecution had no strong evidence to link him to the crime. Roldan is now detained at the Pasig City Jail, along with Noel San Andres, Romeo Ocampo, and Ishmael Domingo.

The court, however, allowed another suspect in the case, Clarence Lacuna, to turn state witness in the Philippine National Police Custodial Service. Lacuna had testified that Roldan and Wang masterminded the alleged kidnapping.

Pasig City RTC Branch 261 Judge Agnes Crispo earlier issued a hold departure order against Wang.

PALAD

AUV strike fizzles out, reset for next week

By Clarissa S. Batino

YESTERDAY'S strike of Asian utility vehicle (AUV) operators and drivers failed to have effect on Friday. It will allow the continuation of about 9,000 franchises in line, to join legitimate. To in exchange for P50,000 if the unit's upgrade.

Magno, president of the Confederation of 70,000-plus AUV Operators and Drivers' Association admitted that the turnout in yesterday's strike was lower than expected.

Only 600 to 800 AUV units of the projected 5,000 showed up outside the LTFRB office on East Avenue in Quezon City.

The failed strike is bad news for those who had hoped the transport sector said it would not stop protesting until the transportation department scrapped the so-called AUV Express scheme.

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Despite the low turnout, the protesters tried to have a motorcade in Mendiola but was stopped by police in Recto, Manila, before noon.

"This Monday, we plan to go full force. We will meet over the weekend to finalize the details," said Magno.

After lunch yesterday, AUV units that joined the strike went back to their routes.

Magno blamed the influence of jeepney and bus operators over the LTFRB for what he called an "unusual" order.

But an official representing jeeps and buses noted that AUV operators must not complain too much because before the LTFRB issued the AUV Express scheme, vehicles were operating illegally.

"This new policy is a compromise to solve the impasse. They must accept it first then petition to have it changed," said Ople-Trillo said.

Magno said the scheme would kill their service.

The group has 14,000 members in Metro Manila and nearby regions and 56,000 nationwide, Magno said. With DJ Yap

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URBAN INSTITUTE OF REAL ESTATE

Baby Pineda viewed in a different light

ON TARGET
Ramon Dalio

MADRIGAL Board Member Lilia "Baby" Pineda, wife of alleged gunrunning lord Rodolfo "Boogie" Pineda, allegedly headed out money contained in envelopes to Camsur supervisors at the residence of Benedicto Mananggal Antonio to try to get them to rig the 2004 presidential elections.

This item is not to belie or give credence to Cruz's claim about Baby Pineda.

Let me just portray Baby Pineda in a different light.

I've known Baby Pineda from way back.

Her husband Boogie was my classmate in a high school some years ago.

Since then, Boogie and I have become friends.

Whenever I go to the Bicol area, Manila Bicol Bus is a regular stop for me. I always miss passing by the house of the Pinedas in Lahuy, Pasacao.

Baby personally serves me and my companions breakfast.

She always stands first I bring along packed goodies consisting of sardines, rice, ground beef, and noodles for the Aetas living inside the vast former US Navy complex.

Whenever I'm in Subic, I set up camp with selected Aetas in the forest.

Pineda's goodies that I distribute among the Aetas are my own.

There are more than a hundred families that receive the goodies.

They were officers that I and my companions are previously lodge in the resorts with the various foodstuff and other essentials inside the package.

Nina Odeli Pineda gives away goodies to the Aetas because they would collect her provincial board members or her son Dennis in Lahuy town center?

Remember, Baby May is in Olongapo City and not in Pampanga.

As Area Immovable, a regular recipient of Baby Pineda's goodies whenever I'm in Subic, asked: "Sayo, dalot mamigay si Baby Pineda sa amin ng pagkain, at ninanan kami mahalaman ng bawat. Ano ang sabi mo gan na food 'yan na can't even vote for her?"

After the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo, Baby Pineda was in the forefront of relief work not only in Pampanga but also in Zambales.

She visited refugee camps daily, building shelters for families who couldn't be accommodated in bunkhouses set up by the government.

I learned once that Baby had also visited a mental hospital in Batasan and found the patients there lacking in clothes. And linen, and food.

The following day, all the patients had pajamas, slippers, bed linen and plenty of food.

What drives Baby Pineda to do the work?

Is it driven by her husband Boog's "sins"?

Baby told me once she and Boog came from humble beginnings.

She was a vendor in her town.

Baby said she sympathizes with the poor because "we were once poor ourselves."

Optical Media Board chief Edu Manzano seems to be fighting an uphill battle against audio-visual piracy.

For starters, he's working on a lean budget. For example, some crooks niche of film have upped the ante in their shady dealings with accredited piers and distributors of pirated materials.

Their reason: Edu is deadset on his drive, that's why he's more dangerous for them to pursue and tip off [illegible] news.

To add to Manzano's woes, the building where his office is located, which was bought for P51 million in 1999, was declared by some non-doers as the property of a Board Resolution.

Now the Commission on Audit is breathing down his neck.

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Zuce: GMA saw payoffs

[Continued from page A1]

ing to the lower level of the Senate, Zuce said Lilia "Baby" Pineda, wife of misnamed "jueteng" lord Bolante "Bong" Pineda, gave the envelopes to one of the directors for distribution to the participants.

He implied that she did not care if it bounced there was even a slight commission in front and she was talking to Mrs. Pineda," Zuce said at the resumption of the hearing yesterday.

"She said all around," Zuce told to Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. who said it did not matter whether she witnessed the distribution because it happened in her house over dinner the hosted for the Bolantes.

A constitutional expert says if Zuce's statement were true the meeting between Ms. Arroyo and the poll officials in her house four months before the balloting was tantamount to conspiracy to commit election sabotage. It constitutes an impeachable offense can be established during a trial. Whether the money handed out is a bribe and whether Pineda acted in the President's behalf are questions to be resolved in court.

Zuce said he had in Ms Arroyo's appeared in her smuttering the worst political crisis of her 4-year-old presidency. It was triggered two months ago by disclosures of wiretapped talks between Garcillano and Garcillano allegedly of a wiretapped telephone conversation which the opposition said showed Ms. Arroyo cheated in the elections.

Ms. Arroyo has denied meddling during the vote. She also has dismissed allegations she bribed election officials in her house but has not addressed the specific charge of her hosting the dinner for the election officials.

In response to a question by Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, Zuce said he had no personal knowledge of the P500,000 in envelopes directed Pineda to distribute money to the participants.

New personalities

Zuce also outlined two new personalities who were supposedly present in the La Vista dinner and who allegedly received the same envelopes... Senior Supt. Rodolfo "Boogie" Mendoza of the Philippine National Police and Andy Gonzales, adviser to Mendoza as a brother of National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales.

Mendoza told the Inquirer he had never been to La Vista.

Sen. Rodolfo Lacson asked the Senate to summon Mendoza to the hearing.

Lacson also requested that ex-Bataan Gov. Enrique Garcia Jr. be likewise issued a subpoena. Zuce said Garcia was present in the La Vista gathering.

GMA TV said last night that Frank Chavez, a former solicitor general and opposition lawyer, had requested that Ely had agreed to appear before the Senate on Aug. 10.

Zuce, accompanied by his lawyer, Lawyer Vicente Ulan, also confirmed the wiretapped conversations between Ms Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, uncle.

Ms Arroyo and Garcillano discussed "special operations" ensured by Malacañang to enlist the support of election officials for Ms Arroyo's presidential candidacy.

Wiretapped calls

Ms and Garcillano was under the care of time presidential political liaison officer Jose Ma. Ruffino, his boss from July 2001 to July 2004.

In his affidavit, Zuce said "all the conversations really took place between Commissioner Garcillano (GR) the client (Ms.) Zuce said that he was told by Garcillano when Ms Arroyo made some of the calls.

Under questioning by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, Zuce said he could not recall whether Garcillano say "mutter, ipse mutare." After the conversation, Zuce said Garcillano would tell him that it was Ms Arroyo at the other end of the line.

Lacson said Zuce provided the first corroboration of the "Hello Garci" tapes. Zuce admitted a portion of the tapes was his voice but he was the "Lazo" that a woman caller told Garcillano about.

Zuce also said he was forced to come out for fear of his life because he learned that former chief of the Philippine National Police and now Transportation Secretary Arturo Lomibao (Bulacan was looking for him.

Ebdane has Garcillano?

"The office mate talked me to say that (Ebdane was) looking for me. Gen. (Undersecretary Raul) Lomibao (Bulacan) told him I have resigned," he said, referring to the resignation of Garcillano from the Metro Police Force where he transferred after working under Ebdane.

Zuce said Ebdane wanted to meet with him and Roquero's office wanted to facilitate the meeting.

Asked by Sen. Ramon Revilla why he was afraid of Ebdane, Zuce said, "Because what I know is they are the ones who have custody of my uncle."

Lapid defends Pineda

There were no fireworks in the testimony of Zuce, massive in an old rose polo shirt and brown pants, who instantly repeated what he has stated in his affidavit and in a news conference earlier.

Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid, on the other hand, could have aroused more ire here in Malacañang when he valiantly tried to defend Lilia "Baby" Pineda.

Lapid, chair of the Senate games committee which is conducting a joint hearing with Zuce, Garcillano's public relations committee, grilled Zuce on whether he saw Baby Pineda giving Garcillano P1.2 million for the senate project, or the P500,000 per Gonzalez officer handed out in the house of Ms Arroyo.

Who gave the money?

Zuce had said that one time, Garcillano asked him to go to his condominium unit near the Osmeña Blvd/Lapid Boulevard and showed him a cabinet full of P1,000 bills wrapped in plastic. Garcillano allegedly told Zuce that P1.2 million was there and because they needed P25 million to P27 million to finance the operation.

"You've been mentioning (in Pineda, Jun By Lapid Lilia Pineda? What it's open from Malacañang Arroyo?" Lapid, a friend of both the Arroyos and the Pinedas, said, eliciting chuckling murmurs from the audience.

Zuce said his calling told him the P12 million came from Pineda while the P50,000 distributed to each of the election officers came from Lilia Pineda's bag.

Lacson interrupted to point out Lapid's loan pun.

"Isn't it more accurate if the money came from Malacañang?" Lacson said, to which Lapid hurried to correct himself.

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Not a paid witness

"All people incur debts but to deny his arrest that if you have debts you cannot tell the truth," Zuce said. He said he would pay his P500,000 debts. He also denied Ms Arroyo's statement that he was a paid witness.

Zuce also said he was pressed in his operations by a Bataan Malaganas, who turned out to be a consultant to several politicians, including Sen. Gregorio Honasan.

Certainly, Zuce said Malaganas was his consultant on Muslim, energy, agricultural issues in Mindanao and "seems to have finding and liaison with local government officials."

Daniella said he met Pablagan in the 1998 campaign and that he knew the latter worked with former governor Alberto Romulo in his gas campaign.

He has been helpful when I need information on Mindanao," he said but said he did not know about his involvement with Zuce in his operations.

Zuce said two of the four bullets fended by Philippine Intercargo and Coming Corp. went to Danny Pelet, provincial election supervisor for Agusan del Norte and Atty Bandalipas, provincial election supervisor in Lanao del Sur.

Corroborative testimony

The Senate joueng inquiry and committee Archbishop Oscar Cruz said he has two more witnesses to present.

Cruz said one of the witnesses would corroborate Zuce's testimony and show how jueteng money was used in the presidential elections.

Also yesterday, Rahul Alipoyo, Gamelco director in General Tinio, said she was willing to undergo a lie detector test to prove that she was not among those who received money in Ms Arroyo's house.

"I am willing to undergo that lie test. What would I lie about?" she said.

Victor Corcoran, Gamelco director for Western Visayas, said Gamelco officials were being subjected to trial by publicity before being given a chance to prove their innocence.

"This is not right. It is causing undue distraction," lamented Dumfried, poll supervisor in Negros Occidental.

Helen Agulla Flores, Gamelco director for Western Mindanao, said she was offered a P50-million for her by the Garcillano camp in order to rig the election for Ms Arroyo and Senate majority candidate Ligong Shiu but she rejected it. Said Was: "Only crazy candidates would bribe an election official for P50-million." With reports from *Ric Jacinto, Norman Bagalihan and Carlo P. Gomez of PDI Visayas Bureau and Kelly A. Ann Jean and Julie L. Alipala of PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Surprise witness calls Zuce 'mammoth liar'

[Continued from page A1]

when he recanted his dealings with a "mammoth liar."

Cherry "Sonicog" Abaya appeared at the resumption of the hearing to confront Zuce over written Michaelangelo Ace, whom he accused of running him of P1.2-million four years ago.

He was not on the list of witnesses presented, but Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said he had written the Senate investigating committee that he be authorized to testify against Zuce.

'I fell off my seat'

"Last Monday I was surprised when the image of a giant flashed on the TV a giant not only in size but in peddling lies," Abaya, former mayor of Bacolod's San Sebastian district, said in his opening remarks, electing laughter.

"Truth to tell, I nearly fell off my seat when I saw Michaelangelo Zuce, which I knew as Louie Zuce, hurling all kinds of allegations against government officials."

The pudgy Zuce sat bored Chinaman and claimed in a press briefing that he witnessed Lilia "Baby" Pineda hand over envelopes allegedly containing money to members of President Macapagal-Arroyo's La Vista home in Quezon City in January 2004.

The 39-year-old Abaya alleged that he paid Zuce's entire allowance of P1.2 million in several tranches in 2001. At the time promised to fix the election protest he lodged with the Commission on Elections after he lost in the mayoral election.

But Zuce, a former provincial prosecutor, failed to make good on his promise and refused him, he said.

'Hoodwinked'

"I'm a victim of this Zuce, a native politician from the province hoodwinked by a mammoth liar and a madman," Abaya, clad in a checkered polo shirt, said, drawing more chuckles from the audience and the spectators.

"Now that Zuce not only bolted a local politician, he's trying to put me over the Filipino nation," he added.

He looked meek

Throughout his session's opening remarks, Zuce was grinning from ear to ear, which Abaya said gave him. He later admitted that Abaya deposited some P250,000 into his account with a pre-dipped from his boss, Juan "Gary" Ruffino.

To the statements of the reporters, Abaya admitted he told he the truth, never walking maps of Zuce.

"I got angry with myself ... why I allowed myself to be deceived by this guy Zuce. He was a sweet talker. He looked meek ... I was wrong. I would like to apologize to the face," he said, leaving the audience in stitches.

By his account, Abaya first met Zuce during the City Mayors' league convention in June 2001 at the Sheraton Hotel, and met him again by chance at the parking lot of the Commission on Elections' main office in Manila a month later.

During the second meeting, Zuce offered to help him in his protest case, saying he had been tasked by Malacañang to handle such cases involving local officials calling Lakas-CMD. Abaya, a member of the party, lost by 16 votes.

A week later, Zuce arranged a dinner with him at the Western Philippine Plaza hotel in Pasay City, where he allegedly told Abaya he needed "budget" for the filing of his protest case at the Comelec.

Heavy eater

"I always pass for everything. This Zuce is a heavy eater," he said when asked by Senator Santiago who paid for the dinner, drawing laughter.

Believing that he won the elections fair and square, Abaya said he agreed to give Zuce an initial P1.5 million, with the balance to be paid after the elections finally found a ruling in his favor.

"I don't know whether he was going to do with the money," he said when asked by Sen. Ramon Revilla is in what was the money for, electing laughter and interviews of Bacolod City Mayor Evelio Leonardia.

Abaya said he handed Zuce P500,000 at the Manila Mandarin, then P200,000 at the Edsa Shangri-La hotel, and P50,000 at the Manila Hotel, while his sister Cherry turned over additional P800,000 in several tranches to Zuce in different places.

Murderers and liars

After some time, he confronted Zuce about the delays in the resolution of the case but the latter kept issuing alibis. He became "suspicious" and decided to dispute the remaining balance of P350,000 to Zuce's counsel.

Zuce confirmed that Abaya deposited some P250,000 to his account, saying this had the go-ahead of Ruffino and Gen. Roquero. It was used to pay off 12 lawyers. He, however, denied Abaya to prove his other claims on the other supposed payments.

"He should prove his charges," he said.

Later in the hearing, Abaya was questioned by Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. on the multiple murder charges filed against him for his involvement in the Bacolod shooting incident in Mashay in 1999 that left three dead.

He said the case had been dismissed in 2004.

When asked by Pimentel if he, as a "character witness," was better than a "liar," he curtly said: "I prefer to be wanted dead to a murderer than a liar."

Only child of painter is 'good father, husband'

[Continued from page A1]

They had been seeing each other almost every day at the school premises until Louie's supposedly-to-be-wife was "kidnapped" by her parents.

Louie and Heidi are both from Mindanao. He's Catholic; she's Protestant. He's a burly 30-year-old man. She is a tall, pretty brownie in her late 20s.

Honeymoon

The mayor of Zuce's hometown of Malibing in Bukidnon, 36 km from Cagayan de Oro City, said he first met Louie when some guitars were stolen from the space in Cagayan University. A check with the school records showed otherwise.

At the Senate hearing yesterday (Diary on Page A11, Zuce said he met only Heidi at a course in aircraft maintenance.

'Jealous lover'

Heidi would say many things about her husband, the friend said, like "he's a jealous lover." Or that he sometimes suspected Heidi of seeing another guy. They would fight over this and that. But in all, she said, good things about him, he added.

"She would tell us they were billionaires this and that hotel, eating in this and that restaurant while campaigning in faraway places. And then, out of the blue, she was engaging it all," he said.

Security problem

The last time friends saw Heidi, they said, was in mid-June. That was when Heidi hosted a celebration of her family's screening shop added.

"My husband is with (Public Works Secretary Hermogenes) Ebdane's group now. And they have been asking him some questions. Ebdane told Heidi he was summoned to the tape," a friend quoted Heidi as saying.

Heidi would tell friends later that Louie came home after two weeks and that he had been debriefed and told to "go somewhere" to avoid questions about what he allegedly knew about the May 2004 elections.

A government official reported by offered a hope him to exchange for his testimony. Louie left for Manila with the way it was offered. One of the offer allegedly was to release in Australia, Canada or any country of his choice.

Told of his husband's situation, Heidi allegedly burned with Louie's political work and allegations would put the family and their livelihood in trouble, the friend said. She then kept on asking Louie to do something.

P2-million offer?

In the first week of July Louie called up a lawyer who referred him to several opposition leaders. A leader of a militant group, who got wind of his potential as a witness, offered him P2 million, but it was also rejected.

Then Louie's house had mustered to come out, but wanted to strike a balance between his conscience and the need to ensure that his family could continue to live decent lives.

Louie also wanted to settle some of his financial obligations for fear that the debtor would dig it up and take it against him, he added.

The last family is now in the middle of an operations group identified with Ebdane's boss, Interior Commissioner Jesperson Simeon Clemo. With fresh grounds to stay, they have been moving from one safe house to another since they traveled to Bukidnon from Manila one week.

In a press conference organized by Chairman Manolo Louie alleged that former Lakas Mapa Lilia Pineda bribed several regional officials of the Commission on Elections to fix the La Vista house of President Macapagal-Arroyo to ensure her victory in the May 2004 elections. Heidi and the three kids stayed by Louie during the press conference.

Ebdane's backers

But Heidi is still restless, her friends said.

She fears that Ebdane's enemies might come back and, this time, get them all.

"One of Ebdane's boys is sending checks to us. They want to talk to us, particularly me," the friend quoted Heidi as saying, recalling how government agents pressured the wife of Ugo Abdul Datile, a military intelligence agent who had reportedly helped tape Garcillano and expose it.

Heidi personally knew a lot about the many orders some Palace officials gave to her husband for implementation, the friend said. While in Mindanao, Heidi would get a call from Louie in Manila on his number one cellular in a bank to name local leaders there, he said, adding that she had kept some of the bank receipts.

"Louie has made a choice," the friend said.

"He could have just opted to live with his young family in seclusion. He came out in the hope that he could help leave out the truth. They talk about him getting money from him made down it could be Eight Malacañang?"

Cagayan de Oro Councilor Ian Seroan said he first met Louie in 1997.

"I was still the president of Sangguniang Kabataan and Louie was then in activities spearheaded by the National Youth Commission," Seroan recalled.

Palace rep?

Seroan also allegedly sent as a representative of the Office of the President during the elevation of the National Movement of Young Legislators (NMYL) about four months ago.

The young city councilor is Northern Mindanao who requested anonymity told the Inquirer that Mabuhay sent Louie and his aunt Pangandaman to help them in the NMYL campaigns.

"I asked Sitang Arroyo to help us during the NMYL elections last May and she sent us Zuce and Pangandaman as our representatives under the Office of the President on Political Coalition with Undersecretary Ray Navarro," the source also said. He said the President was a sponsor in his wedding.

"As far as I know, he worked with Jose Roquero under the Office of the President," the source said. "He was a point leader in Cagayan de Oro and had worked under Lakas in the 1998, 1995 and 1992 elections."

The councilor said he had met Louie sometime times in Cagayan de Oro and in Malaybalay.

'Has on the go'

Elgar City Mayor Lourdes Cruz, a GMA candidate, described Louie a "man on the go."

"He seems to be everywhere. He is always traveling, Cruz said.

He said Louie tried to convince him to move to the administration party during last year's elections.

Another source said Louie was fond of dropping names of powerful people, particularly those in Malacañang.

A Comelec official and Louie was a "liar" who allegedly asked money from candidates in exchange for promises to be dropped the name of former Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano. With reports from *Grace Conrad-Albacin and Dhar Ryan Cuaresma of PDI Mindanao Bureau*

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2001 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER A 1

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Maronilla
Assistant Editor Cornie S. Mariano

Trade deficit swells to $4.36B

Revised figures paint far worse picture of RP, say analysts

THE GOVERNMENT on Tuesday drastically revised its trade deficit figures for the past three years, painting a far worse picture of the country's economy and trading position than first thought.

The heavy withdrawal in imports and exports reported initial causing doubts about the reliability of the government's data, analysts said.

According to the National Statistics Office (NSO) the 2000 trade deficit was changed to $4.36 billion from the previously stated $713 million.

The 2001 deficit was revised to $4.24 billion, up from $1.27 billion. For 2002, the trade deficit was revised to $4.83 billion from the previously reported $838 million.

Officials said they also expect to revise trade data from January to May this year to reflect newly tabulated export figures and a new method of computing import data.

The country earlier reported a trade surplus of $339 million in the first five months of this year.

Economists said the dramatic changes in

THE COLOR OF MONEY A money changer in Manila hands over greenbacks to a customer. According to analysts, changes in figures showing the country's trade deficit are expected to fuel existing doubts about the reliability of the government's data.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Globe profit down 68% in Q2

Peso to remain fragile, traders say

GDP growth likely to miss target

By Michelle P. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S economic growth this year is likely to fall below government expectations amid a slowdown in global demand and a host of internal factors squeezing the nation in the past few months.

According to the projections of the Senate Center for Economic Research and Development, the country's gross domestic product may only grow by between 4.1 and 4.3 percent in 2001.

The forecast is lower than the government's official goal of 4.6-5.6 percent growth of expenditure between 4.5 and 5.2 percent by year-end.

Former Nacha chief Carlos Hidalgo, who now heads the Asiatico think tank, attributed the downturn to external and internal factors, such as

(Continued on Page A2)

Globe profit down 68% in Q2

Smart, Piltel freed from local taxes

THE COURT of Appeals has exempted Smart Communications Inc. from local franchise taxes.

This came after the CA dismissed the case filed by Makati City which had been pressing Smart to pay P112 million in franchise taxes.

In a statement, Smart said the 11th Division of the Court of Appeals dismissed the case "abandoned and dismissed" after Makati City failed to file a petition for review.

Last April, the Supreme Court upheld a similar decision of the Court of Appeals exempting Piltel from paying franchise taxes to Makati City.

In January this year, the Iloilo City court similarly ruled that Smart was exempt from paying local franchise and business taxes worth P764,345.28 for 2002 to 2003, inclusive of surcharges and penalties.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., on the other hand, is contesting about P4.5 billion in franchise taxes and other assessments that local governments all over the country were trying to collect, according to its financial statements last year.

PLDT said that in most cases, local governments compared tax rating assessed value instead of rates within their respective jurisdictions.

The local governments after trade claims for periods going back more than five years. Clarissa S. Batino

By Clarissa S. Batino

GLOBE Telecom Inc., the country's second largest telecommunications company, suffered a huge blow in the second quarter after its net income dropped 68 percent to P1.76 billion—its lowest quarterly profit since the last quarter of 2001—due to higher income tax provisions, interconnect and foreign exchange losses.

Its chief rival Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., on the other hand, is expected to report today more than P7.3 billion in recurring earnings in the second quarter from almost P7 billion in the first quarter, and P6.8 billion in the same period last year.

PLDT, a source said, would "surprise" the market with "unexpected profit numbers," contrary to expectations of analysts that earnings of local telcos soared.

Globe's second quarter profit was less than half the P5 billion in profit it recorded in the first quarter and the P3.84 billion it posted in the same period last year.

Its first half revenue of P9.2 billion was down 38 percent from P6.6 billion in the same period last year.

Sales, Globe admitted, failed to keep pace with increasing costs and expenses.

Interest expense in the first half stood at P96.75 billion, only 2 percent more than the P95.17 billion a year ago, while costs and expenses went up 13 percent at P23.1-billion from P20.47 billion in the first semester of 2004.

"We need to re-engineer our cost structures by finding new and better ways of doing things," said Globe president Gerardo Ablaza Jr. in a statement.

Marketing expenses, in particular, rose 15 percent, and network operating and depreciation expenses went up 21 percent.

During the second quarter alone, Globe's revenue slid to P13.27 from P13.55 billion in the same period last year, while costs went to P12.5 billion against P10.25 billion in the second quarter of 2004.

Including Touch Mobile, the joint venture between Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecom ended June with 13.6 million subscribers against 12.5 million in the first quarter.

Touch Mobile, its other wireless brand, had been aggressively courting customers with cheaper rates.

That, it added 611,000 new subscribers during the second quarter to bring its base to almost 2 million by the first three months.

Globe blamed foreign exchange losses coupled with P1.2 billion in income tax provision for 88 percent of the drop in profits.

The peso weakened to P56.177 during the quarter from P54.797 in end-Mar.

Ablaza said the key to Globe's competitiveness was to accelerate the rollout of its network.

As of end-June, Globe's cellular sites stood at 4,335, up 51 percent from 2,955 a year ago. It now covers 90 percent of the country and 98 percent of the population.

The impending acquisition, according to Ablaza, would allow the company to go deeper into the mass market for long-term prospects.

ABLAZA

Sugar and spies

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Bassi III

And, based on the media line of the Palace, Gloriaeta is the only one who can fix our sliding economy while the rest of the world is booming.

Yeah right, and you can rely on Inandoo her girls to fix any leak in your personal plumbing!

And so when she is new, right?

In an incredibly decisive decision on a non-cabinet issue, supposedly involving a so-called foreign top-secret deal between two government outfits, and after the price of the government's sale of its dwindling assets, the Palace made... well, as usual pass.

It passed on the issue to the other government offices, namely the Department of Agriculture, the Bangko Sentral, and the PNB.

Unfortunately, after the decision came down from the Palace, according to my sugar industry spies, some low level bureaucrats in those offices just dribbled the sugar group around.

They all said they could not do anything about it. And as usual, they offered some excuses... er, alibi... that clashed with one another.

Is this just another case of the government of right hand not knowing what the left is doing? Or is there something else, such as a grand conspiracy somewhere?

* * *

HMM what I gathered... it seems that the top-secret deal between the Bangko Sentral and the PNB could only involve some eight piece sign, or sometime in 1997.

In other words, that one still during the Ramos administration, known in my circles as the "Rajas Eddie" administration.

The top-secret deal took its official form in a top-secret "memorandum of agreement," which in government lingo is known as an MOA—much like the mixed fruit a row is bear.

The MOA, as I said, was between the Bangko Sentral and the PNB, which at that time was not yet semi-privatized, with the government still owning and running the show, and only a portion of the shares issued on a public offering.

In 1997, the head of the Bangko Sentral was former Bangko Sentral Governor Gabriel Singson, awarded Management Man of the Year by the prestigious Management Association of the Philippines, for his sins at the Bangko Sentral.

* * *

BY coincidence, Singson was also the president at the PNB before he went back to the central bank as governor.

Singson now happens to be a highly sought-after financial adviser to big business, a particular favorite of some tuipans.

Interestingly enough, the president of the PNB at that time was Henry Sy-Coson, who's now the secretary of trade and industry, taking the position after the mass resignation of Cabinet members who were apparently disgusted with this case-in-point subservient action.

But then again, the one in charge of privatization under Ramos' Executive Secretary Ruben Torres now is Tessie Sy-Coson, Henry's wife, who's now the secretary of trade and industry, taking the position after the mass resignation of Cabinet members who were apparently disgusted with this case-in-point subservient action.

But then again, the one in charge of privatization under Ramos' Executive Secretary Ruben Torres now is Tessie Sy-Coson, Henry's wife, who's now the secretary of trade and industry, taking the position after the mass resignation of Cabinet members who were apparently disgusted with this case-in-point subservient action.

Now, as if he was responding to accusation of possible conflict of interest in the PNB privatization, former Finance Secretary Cesar "Tutoy" Virata was reportedly said that he trusted the Singsons.

He, based on reports, Persons did not see any conflict. Nobody could say if he knew about the top-secret deal.

* * *

BASED on word in the sugar sector, the top-secret deal under that top-secret MOA should give a subdivision peso windfall some eight years from now to whoever buys the government holdings in PNB today.

Meanwhile, thousands of owners of sugar farms all over the country will be at the mercy of whoever that buyer will be.

Nobody in the sugar industries the top-secret deal under that top-secret MOA was designed to make the Roxandreng PNB a bit attractive to buyers.

Word from inside the Lucio Tan group, which became part owner of PNB during the Ramos administration, is that... Wow Bank!... is that if the bid price in the full privatization of PNB is on high, the group will mostly likely sell its holdings together with those of the government.

Well, these are tough times for banking, for instance, let us say that the PNB privatization fetches P50 billion. The bank can save for the buyer something like P200 million a year, or even P300 million, tops.

Using only your fingers, computer have long before the buyer recovers the investment, assuming that he is still alive by then.

* * *

STILL, that top-secret deal under that top-secret MOA could also be a way for the government to promote the sugar planters as well there land.

You see, under the law, the sugar farms are supposed to be covered by the failed land reform program, featuring the likes of the late Ka Lamberto, which is currently by the family of Tita Cory, who is no longer a friend of this cute friendship-challenged administration.

Powered by Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc.

(As of August 3, 2005)

STOCK	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
MINING & OIL					
ATLAS CONSOLIDATED MINING & DEVELOPMENT CORP.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	1,000
BENGUET CORP. 'A'	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	1,000
BENGUET CORP. 'B'	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	1,000
CENTURY PEAK METALS, INC.	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
CHROMITE GOLD CORP.	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
COAL ASIA HOLDINGS, INC.	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
COPPER KING MINING CORP.	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
DIZON COPPER-SILVER MINES, INC.	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
EAST ASIA OIL CO., INC.	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORP.	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	1,000
FAR EAST MINING CONSOLIDATED CORP.	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
FIRST GEN CORP.	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	1,000
FIRST PHILIPPINE HOLDINGS CORP.	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	1,000
GREENSTONE CORP.	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
GREENSTONE CORP. 'B'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
GREENSTONE CORP. 'C'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
GREENSTONE CORP. 'D'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
GREENSTONE CORP. 'E'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
GREENSTONE CORP. 'F'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
GREENSTONE CORP. 'G'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
GREENSTONE CORP. 'H'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
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GREENSTONE CORP. 'J'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
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GREENSTONE CORP. 'O'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
GREENSTONE CORP. 'P'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
GREENSTONE CORP. 'Q'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
GREENSTONE CORP. 'R'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
GREENSTONE CORP. 'S'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
GREENSTONE CORP. 'T'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
GREENSTONE CORP. 'U'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
GREENSTONE CORP. 'V'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
GREENSTONE CORP. 'W'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
GREENSTONE CORP. 'X'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
GREENSTONE CORP. 'Y'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
GREENSTONE CORP. 'Z'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
FINANCIAL					
ABACUS SECURITIES CORP.	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
ABACUS SECURITIES CORP. 'B'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
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CENTURY PEAK METALS, INC.	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
CHROMITE GOLD CORP.	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
COAL ASIA HOLDINGS, INC.	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
COPPER KING MINING CORP.	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
DIZON COPPER-SILVER MINES, INC.	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
EAST ASIA OIL CO., INC.	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORP.	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	1,000
FAR EAST MINING CONSOLIDATED CORP.	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
FIRST GEN CORP.	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	1,000
FIRST PHILIPPINE HOLDINGS CORP.	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	1,000
GREENSTONE CORP.	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
GREENSTONE CORP. 'B'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
GREENSTONE CORP. 'C'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
GREENSTONE CORP. 'D'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
GREENSTONE CORP. 'E'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
GREENSTONE CORP. 'F'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
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GREENSTONE CORP. 'H'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
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GREENSTONE CORP. 'K'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
GREENSTONE CORP. 'L'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
GREENSTONE CORP. 'M'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
GREENSTONE CORP. 'N'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
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GREENSTONE CORP. 'W'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
GREENSTONE CORP. 'X'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
GREENSTONE CORP. 'Y'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
GREENSTONE CORP. 'Z'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
FINANCIAL					
ABACUS SECURITIES CORP.	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
ABACUS SECURITIES CORP. 'B'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
ABACUS SECURITIES CORP. 'C'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
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ABACUS SECURITIES CORP. 'Z'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
PROPERTY					
ABACUS SECURITIES CORP.	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
ABACUS SECURITIES CORP. 'B'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
ABACUS SECURITIES CORP. 'C'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
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ABACUS SECURITIES CORP. 'W'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
ABACUS SECURITIES CORP. 'X'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
ABACUS SECURITIES CORP. 'Y'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
ABACUS SECURITIES CORP. 'Z'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
SERVICES					
ABACUS SECURITIES CORP.	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
ABACUS SECURITIES CORP. 'B'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
ABACUS SECURITIES CORP. 'C'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
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ABACUS SECURITIES CORP. 'K'	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1,000
ABACUS SECURITIES CORP. 'L'	0.50

Forex traders expect peso to remain fragile

But will not likely breach all-time low of 56.45:$1

By Doris C. Dumlao

TOP officials of financial markets association ACI Philippines yesterday said the peso would likely remain fragile due to political jitters but was not likely to break the all-time low of 56.45:$1.

"Treasury officials from different banks said the current political environment makes it 'almost impossible for the peso to appreciate back to the 54:$1 level.'

"The bargain hunting by Filipino and foreign investors gone from launching the 56.45:$1 level because every time the peso hits new lows, the markets turn crazy," said Mick Wilson, treasurer of HSBC Philippines.

Wilson is also the organizing chair of ACI's World Congress, which the Philippines will host in May next year.

He said further hikes in the reserve requirement imposed on banks would likely be the BSP's preferred route in curbing excess liquidity to the upside.

Assuming that the political strife will soon come to an end, Wilson said the peso could resume its upward and even rosier to the 52:$1 level by next year.

For now, he said the lower resistance would likely be locked between 55.75 and 56.45 and that any strengthening past 55.75 would likely be temporary.

ACI Philippines president Jose Emmanuel Hilado said that for as long as political concerns were besetting the markets, it would be difficult for the peso to gain ground even as other countries in Asia were benefiting from the continuation of the Chinese yuan. He said the peso would trade between 55.25 to 56.45 against the dollar amid the current political conditions.

Lito Blancaflor, ACI Philippines treasurer and chief foreign exchange dealer at Bank of the Philippine Islands, said the peso would likely continue nosing historic lows in the short term.

He said volatility in the forex market would depend on certain conditions, such as progress in the government's fiscal consolidation, perception of credit rating agencies and China's management of its yuan.

Reuters said the assessment of global rating agencies—such as Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch—are inevitably affecting market sentiment such as when they assigned a "negative" outlook on the Philippines early this month.

Aside from the political jitters, Reuters said the foreign exchange market was under great pressure from rising oil prices, which had pushed up oil companies' dollar requirements in about $400 million a month or more than double their import bills in the past.

POLITICAL concerns make it almost impossible for the peso to appreciate back to 54: $1 level, say money market traders.

Banks' bad loans seen to drop even without SPV law extension

THE BANKO Sentral ng Pilipinas says the non-performing loans of commercial banks ending at 10 percent of their total loan portfolio by the end of the year, from a peak of 18 percent in 2004, even without an extension of the Special Purpose Vehicle Act.

This developed as credit rating agency Standard & Poor's noted in a report that the local banks' bad loan overhang was still substantial, thus constraining their appetite to lend.

"The SPV Act and underlying tax incentives have not met expectations of resolving the industry's bad debt, as facilitator credit demand means banks are not sufficiently profitable to absorb the losses from disposing bad loans," S&P said.

"Besides stronger credit growth as impose profitability banks need to address the underlying issues of bad asset quality, such as weak lending and risk management practices," the rating agency added.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. told reporters that as of last June 15, some P71 billion worth of non-performing assets clogging the books of commercial banks had been approved for transfer but had yet to be fully reflected in the industry's income report on asset quality.

Also, a possible extension of the SPV Law will help banks unload another chunk of bad assets worth at least P100 billion and trim the NPL ratio to 7.5 percent, Tetangco noted.

But many have given up on the openly expressed extension of the SPV law, favoring that Congress is more busy with the impeachment and illegal gambling hearings and would further be constrained if and when impeachment and Charter change initiatives push through.

The SPV Law, which expired last April, gave fiscal incentives to wholesale asset transfers, aimed at encouraging banks to clean up their books and free up more funds for lending. It received the down payment stamp tax, capital gains tax and expanded value-added tax while retaining the registration transfer fees by 50 percent.

Doris C. Dumlao

GDP growth likely . . .

higher than-expected inflation, rising unemployment and underemployment, the negative outlook on the country's credit standing, decline in exports, unresolved ageless and foreign exchange burdens, and drop in investments.

Retaining problems in economics, Habito said recent political events not only led to the downgrade of the country's credit rating, but somehow affected the shaky behavior of the equities and the foreign exchange markets, which are already influenced by unpredictable movements of rates in the global arena.

Habito then said that what the country needs for the economy to take off is a formal new leadership that is principle-oriented, so as to address the government's apparent lack of "vision, inspiration and substance."

Habito issued warm admonitions to the fiscal arena such as the posting of a lower than-targeted budget deficit for the first half of the year that he said the government would undertake initiatives to better achieve the goal of putting its fiscal house in order.

He also noted the weak enforcement of laws on tax evasion, low morale in the bureaucracy and lack of teamwork among government agencies.

Habito also said he was concerned with the equality between the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Department of Justice, who are blaming each other for the delays in the progress of the tax evasion cases filed by the government.

He said the new records in government agencies—where employees are tend to decrease their cost load etc.—was a disadvantage to the development goals.

"When you have this kind of situation, [people begin to doubt] the effectiveness by which the government can work," he said.

To provide a flavor to compare to the country's fiscal condition, Habito suggested that the Philippines may seriously consider asking for a debt relief although he added that such a move should be done in a discreet manner to avoid rattling the markets.

He also said that asking for a debt relief would require political reforms, including change in leadership.

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BUSINESS

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Palace cuts tariffs on Asean goods, ethanol

By Norman W. Domingo and Abigail L. Ho

MALACAÑANG has removed the tariffs on 88 products imported from the four newest members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Signed last July 22, Executive Order No. 448 was issued in line with the country's commitments to the Asean Integration System of Preferences (AISP). It qualified 60 products, classified into four groups, from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam for duty-free importation under the program.

There are plums and parts of plants used in perfume, medicines or for killing insect and fungi, including medicinal marijuana products (from Laos); vegetable products such as leaves of betel, tarland betel nut; wood canes as shipped but unclothed; fruit-collaborators; and shoots for weaving, for plywood or for other laminated wood products that are thicker than 6 millimeters.

Also on July 22, President Macapagal-Arroyo issued EO No. 449 that brought down the tariff on bio-ethanol imports to be used for the government's Fuel Ethanol Program to 3 percent from 10 percent.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said that since there would be no locally produced ethanol up to 2007, the law was to encourage bio-ethanol fuel development was to reduce the import duty on ethyl alcohol.

Ethanol, or ethyl alcohol, is produced when crops such as sugar cane, cassava, corn and other agricultural feedstock are fermented and distilled. It is used as gasoline blend, a component of reformulated gasoline or a primary fuel with gasoline as a blend. Under the country's energy independence package, ethanol will be used as a gasoline blend.

In the meantime, the AISP rebuts is the Asean's version of a Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), is a unilateral offer made by six of the Asean member economies but is implemented on a bilateral basis.

The AISP however, requires that at least 40 per cent of the content of the products to be tested should originate from the exporting country.

The AISP is meant to implement the Initiative for Asean Integration (IAI), which member governments adopted in the 4th Asean informal summit held in 2000.

Although EO No. 448 has removed the tariff on cannabis or marijuana from Laos, a trade official said it did not mean that this product could actually be shipped into the country.

Cannabis is one of the deadly classes of drug abuse worldwide although certain groups, such as the International Association for Cannabis as Medicine, are promoting its use as medicine.

"Even if a product was assigned tariff specifications, it cannot be brought in if the law prohibits its use," the official said.

The products under EO No. 448 represented the second batch of the country's AISP package. The first batch, contained in EO No. 346 issued on Jan. 31, 2005, included 79 product lines.

Napocor seen to end 2005 in the black after 6 yrs of losses

By Abigail L. Ho

NAPOCOR hopes to further boost sales this year by getting more customers.

AFTER being the biggest drain on national coffers for several years, state-owned National Power Corp. expects to at least break even this year as its interest expenses and operational costs go down.

Projections made by Napocor's finance department showed that the management, the first time since 1998, would be brought about mainly by the reduction in the state firm's interest expenses to P10.04 billion from P16.25 billion last year.

The reduction in interest charges stems from the government's absorption of P200 billion of Napocor's debts last year.

The Energy Regulatory Commission's full approval of Napocor's rate hike petition in April is also expected to contribute to the state firm's good performance this year. Napocor hopes to further boost sales this year by getting more customers.

"We're looking at all available markets, especially in the industrial sector and inside economic zones. There is an increasing demand for electricity all throughout the country. We are encouraged by our biggest customer, (the Manila Electric Co.), having a lot of power from us," Napocor president Cyril Del Callar said in a briefing yesterday.

SSS take up 7.3%

THE SOCIAL Security System said its collection of contributions from members rose by 7.3 percent in the first half of the year, continuing its performance vs. the ongoing campaign to clean up collections.

Based on data from the SSS, collections from January to June this year reached P83.146 billion, or P5.57 billion more than the P77.577 billion collected in the same period last year.

The SSS said that almost 60 percent of the total contributions, or P54 billion, came from the National Capital Region (NCR). Of the total amount, NCR south—that includes the Makati financial district—dropped to P6.2 billion.

The SSS said it was planning to put up 33 additional offices in the NCR before the end of the year. It now has 38 branches in the region. It said it intended to put the additional branches in Commonwealth, Kamuning, Cubao, Las Piñas, Makati, Pasig, Parañaque, Pasay, San Mateo and Valenzuela.

Contributions from the Visayas and Mindanao amounted to P4.8 billion in the first six months of the year, exceeding the target of P4.2 billion by P600 million. SSS collections in the Visayas amounted to P2.5 billion and that in Mindanao reached P2.1 billion.

Michelle V. Ibero

A BISTRO to love /C2

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Lito Cheio Bautista-Fermosa

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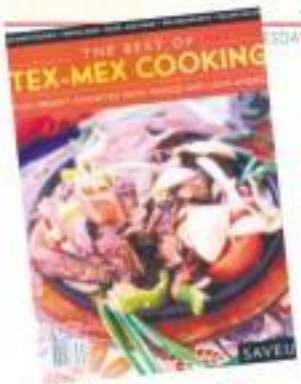

What a ride it's been!

Kitchen Rescue is proof that it takes a village to raise a child. And this child is as much yours as it is mine

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WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS
a world to discover

Reggie Aspiras

IT NEVER dawned on me until yesterday that my baby, Kitchen Rescue, is now two-and-a-half years old. And as with any true-blue-yet-life-less, it's been quite a ride on this rolling-and-bobbing road, with its fair share of ups and downs. There remains much to discover, a whole world to explore and a lot of room for me to improve.

God has been so good. He has sent along my path a multitude of people to help me meld Kitchen Rescue to what it is today.

To my KR family: my colleagues in the business who are always there to assist me when life stumped and whose individual talents they so unselfishly share, people who, for their love of food, create dishes that are worth writing about, those who go out of their way to toss me an those appreciative for when I do send those who trust me enough with their questions; those who spare our 30 minutes of their time to read 80 and jot up with my hosts of inanity—I figured I cannot let any years pass without saying, silently yet Kitchen Rescue is proud that it takes a village to raise a child. And that child is as much yours as it is mine. And to my dad and to say—Go we go, to spread the sunshine!

Good news

I bumped into two wonderful people at Shangrila's a few weeks ago—Tony Boy Bolcolano and Pinebud Co.

But before that, let me tell you that one of the most "genius" if the only word I can use to describe it) tasting menus I've ever tried in Iran. 0.43's wine library—Miguel Torres, Chile, San Ignacio 2001, Cabernet Sauvignon. All wine aficionados should call 7240822 to get a bottle.

Now back to the chefs. Who doesn't know the famous and talented Tony Boy? He's recreating his menu for Antonio's and it should be ready by the first of September.

The exciting news is about his latest playground, a restaurant called The Grill. What are we to expect? Well, simply the best cuisine! I've not found the time to go but, as I always say, there are certain things that I expect of certain people and, undoubtedly, from this chef I expect no less than perfection.

The Grill serves features to goodness Pinoy food. Specialties include barbies with pork, dang, shrimp, chicken, pares, rice with meat, pepper, longsilog, tapsilog, pork hotsilog, and sinigang—choice of bangus, sampaloc or mangga! That sounds sweet, eh? Call Antonio's at (632) 6334847. The Grill is at One Dominion, Alabang-Zapote Road, Tagaytay. (0917-7020008 or 0917-8533338).

Those inquiring about herbs and where to get them cut or potted should call Tony Boy's wife, Agnes, at 09 95-4648118. Their herbs are great! To my dear Tony Boy, congratulations and goodbye!

And who doesn't remember dear Florabel from Le Soufflé? Soon she'll be opening a restaurant of her own. In the meantime, if you're sick of your South Beach food, she has created a brand new menu, and she delivers! Call 7838246 or 0917-8137246.

Vanilla

Tahitian Vanilla is now grown locally and vanilla beans are now readily available. I was given a few sticks to try and, unlike a lot of vanilla beans available here, these get to you nice and moist, not dry, hard and brittle! For those who are unaware of it, vanilla is extracted from vanilla beans. Best part is they're cheap! Call Rain Garcianos at 8920866 or 7520388/93. Oh, and they sell fruit juices, as well as frozen fruit and cool pastries for pastry.

Cookbooks

Thank you for your cookbook recommendations. More suggestions please.

PEGGIE

This is another great book, one of the last publications on Tex-Mex cooking. I've some

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Lovin' La Vigne

This bistro with a short and sweet menu and well-stocked wine cellar is guaranteed to inspire nothing but affection

SAUTÉED pompano fillet over a unique cucumber au a la aioli dish

BOMB marmot with retail marmalade

RISOTTO La Vigne con quesonas y hongos and the risk on consumes Cepes crudo tuna

HOT NOUR or dousy prawn: Chef Jess was the rare sting

By Margaux Salcedo
Contributor
Photos by Rudy Lorme

MANDALUYONG is a rare oddity. La Vigne (3rd entry, Baker in the end of Valud Street in Makati has all the qualities of "that quaint little restaurant down the road" you will absolutely adore. (For like mall one reading this, think a parallel to Rustic (Mo Malapit.)

The ambiance is obviously French, complete with faux finish walls and floors and dim lighting. The walls are adorned not with paintings but with shelves of wine, from which collection you may select a bottle for your meal. And the staff is impressively welcomed with nice large corsage. The Table even sent her dining manager in France to acquire an appreciation and learn the language of wines). Hopping to La Vigne's version of the happy hour. On Mondays, Tuesdays and Saturdays, 6-8 p.m., guests can drink as much curated wine as they can with free appetizer for only P999.

Not sure how many appetizers or what servers I was having La Vigne for its menu. Short and sweet (12 starters, 18 main dishes), it boasts of a selection where each dish was drowned of, create and then brought (or shall we say La Vigne-ed?) prepared by Sous Chefs named Chefmers from one of America's best cookbooks Bas and Bold Chef Jess Sixto himself.

Mostly French

The menu is mostly French (for you for starters, bouillabaisse for the main course) with a Spain twist. The Spanish, which oftentimes has a tendency to be too rich, was served with minced papaya to balance the salty and fatty richness of its taste. The cheese toasts, which would otherwise be a predictable dish (with many known fancy names of cheese that I don't know, like Camembert, etc.), was named with lime, which made it pleasantly original. The duck was paired with apricot chutney. Indeed, Sixto seems to have mastered the art of balancing the flavors with the friendly to produce for the patient a heavenly after taste.

Another reason to love La Vigne is that the ingredients are handpicked by the chef himself, and so are of top quality and affordances hard to find. Instead of using common prawns, he uses, when available, tulya (giant freshwater prawn from the south) or, ahead of portobello, he uses Cepes mushrooms (aka *boletus* or *porcini* mushrooms) for his risotto, which are not your common table risotto and have a strong smoky taste

FIGS-GRAS with seared papaya

CHEF Jess Sixto and wine importer Tita Teller writing and dining mode truly fun

DEVILS Food cake

BOMBOBA Pot de Creme, a truly original concoction

FRENCH ambiance complete with faux finish walls and floors and dim lighting

protect for years and rice dishes.

Around me

Even the side dishes are innovative. Instead of rice or potato side dish, they serve pompano with a corn fritter (yes, think tortilla in a rice cup but made instead with corn). I thoroughly enjoyed this concoction because it was soft and light and allowed my tongue to both concentrate on the fish and not tire of it (many can opposed to throwing rice and turning the fish to one afterthought).

Dessert at La Vigne is an event of its own. Chef Sixto's wife, fashion designer Micki Calica, discovered Kamie Ily, a creative, young pastry chef who (as told her story again the majority of the hour. Once dessert was done by a famous old bakeshop, she was convinced by the latter to take the road less traveled (in her case, Inkali) to have the space to explore her creativity in pastries.

Kamie's chocolate cake (they call it Devil's Food cake) is soft and moist as it should be, but what got my attention was a miniature boxy looking peanut brittle like that candy on a stick. Ok, it wasn't peanut brittle, but an unrelated sweet? After learning that Kamie is constantly enabled such up of caramelized sucrose to form the brown top part of a tart, it felt like sacrilege to take another bite. (But I gave in anyway!)

Next her creative invention of Kamie is her Bibingka Pot De Creme. Her dessert's traditional flavor a risotto, with chocolate a favorite variety, but Kamie got adored anise and used salted egg and coconut milk to achieve a unique Silvaginch flavor. Her flavor of you take care for dessert but nothing too sweet, this is the perfect alternative.

Overall, La Vigne is well worth the 15-min away from the areas packed mall. It's a haven for the cultured, the creative, the couple and the curious. The prices are competitive but not cost the top (P160-P300 for starters; P395-P595 for main courses, with exceptions). I guarantee that it won't cost you too much to feel that you're living in Vigne.

La Vigne Restaurant, 7670 Ethel St., San Antonio Village, Makati. Tel: 894-1272.

E-mail the author at margaux@yahoo.com

Cell phone users still getting 'spammed'

THE CONSUMER

Henrietta Tinsley-Ochoa

DESPITE the crackdown on unsolicited text blasts by the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), broadcast and cellular phone companies haven't stopped sending unsolicited text messages.

And, judging by the number of complaints sent by consumers to this column, spam bids appear to have increased instead of curbed.

As some of the letter senders complained, the most annoying aspect is not knowing who your spammer is. Most of these messages don't even identify the sender.

Some of these spams sound, to an old theater critic, as if they are advertisements in disguise. Why the disguise? It's simply because the NTC allows companies to send the common types of messages. To quote from the circular: "public service information messages, network advisories and consumer notices and promotion related messages."

Letters

Joey Montalvo wrote, "I received from Globe's customer service rep that they charged you even if you didn't download a ringtone. So wonder that, on previous browsing, I'm a P199 [sic]. I only got to make between 70-80 messages [without making any calls].

"I hope that you will contact the officer or at least compile your readers' letters/views for submission to Congress or the Senate for a much needed investigation (if no one has done this yet) as well as info consumer groups to prevent client abuse."

Ryan J. de la Cruz: "I wonder why Smart keeps sending ringtones that are unacceptable (not in P/T code)? Maybe we are not the first one of these complaints that are sent to us. If needed, we would request for them but don't send us these advertisements and promotional texts."

A Globe subscriber commented: "The so-called value-added services they come in the form of a four digit code such as 2144 that keeps sending advertisements and other promotions.

"For instance, you will receive a promotional text along with a free logo, icon, sports or picture messages from 2144. The last line of the message [says] all texts. Reply txt to stop receiving. (from 2144)." Since this is just an ad, most people don't bother to read it. They will just delete the message. However, if you don't text NO, you are automatically enrolled in the service. From then on, you receive as many multimessages as spams (P2.50 each). Inspirations (P30-35/day), picture messages (P5/day), ringtones etc.

"And... you may not be aware of it yet, but there is a charge for every [inbox] inquiry with 2144. I don't know if you received the notice about this."

NTC rules

For the information of readers with questions and complaints about unwanted messages, I spoke over the phone to former NTC rules and regulations officer Ernesto Carreon, chief of the NTC Observing Public Assistance Center. Abbreviations and technical terms are explained in the end.)

• Commercial announcements and information, surveys, and other promotional push messages shall be sent only to subscribers who give prior consent or specifically opted to receive such messages. PTEs and content providers shall also provide methods for subscribers to "un-opt-in" at some later date.

• Broadcast (such messaging shall not be sent between 8 p.m.-7 a.m. except original subscription services.

• A subscriber's request to block unsolicited push messages shall not be charged to the originating SMS mobile messages under the rule to allow recipient agreed to receive them.

• Subscribers to specific who do not reply to broadcast push messages shall be considered to have opted out. Such broadcasts should be stopped as subscribers may opt out without being charged.

• Complainants may file their complaints with or phone them in to the NTC and PTE that shall act on all complaints received in reference from and to any mobile broadcast service.

• Complainants not satisfied with the action of the PTE may bring the matter to the NTC.

NTC defines terms

PTE (public telecom entities) refers to people or companies that provide services for sales.

SMS (multimedia messaging service) allows users to send and receive messages containing images, videos, audio and text.

Push messages are information—unsolicited or spontaneous—transmitted by means of the content provider to mobile phones.

To opt in means the subscriber has requested to receive digital marketing through SMS or IMS.

To opt out is to unsubscribe to order and to receive future unsolicited commercial and promotional messages.

IMS means short messaging service, a function for sending text to mobile phones that uses the global system.

For more details on the NTC circular, write to Commissioner Ronaldo Solis, National Telecommunications Commission, BH Road, East Triangle, Diliman, QC 1101.

Discover Portuguese cuisine

THE MOUSE Aguinas School of Culinary Arts is offering the following classes:

Aug. 6: Meet Cook Bumgarner (all servers)—Cable Wrap, Seafood Arrivals, Pork Alcatraz, Chef and Pork Wine, Bumgarner Style with BBQ, Quesadilla & Penne, Cheese Party.

Aug. 13: Burgos—appetizer, soup, salad and main dishes; over 15 easy and delicious burger recipes. From chicken to "Pork Behind, Lasagna to Rice Bake.

Aug. 6: Carbonilla and Steamed Tapas (all level)—Make your own Carbonilla several with focus on Escalada, Mechara con Salsa Verde.

Aug. 20: Middle Eastern foods recipes (all serve) great for entertaining!—Beef Shawarma with all its condiments and sauces, Chicken and Lamb Spices, Homemade Pita Bread.

Call [illegible] and [illegible] at [illegible]

Mall cooking demo, Aug. 5

ZEBRA Steel Cookware will introduce distinctive and easy-to-prepare dishes in a cooking demonstration to be held at SM Makati 3-7 p.m. Aug. 5 and 6.

Professional chef and food consultant Ashfel Cruz will conduct the cooking demo. Cruz is a graduate and former part-time instructor of the Center for Culinary Arts (CCA).

Learn how to make "Honey Barbecue Wings" in Zebra Steam Pot and Tri-Fan and "Steamed Tilapia with Garlic Coriander Mayo" in Zebra Steam Pot with Steamer.

Cook the "Shrimp Bisque" in Zebra Sauce Pot and "Herb Chicken Pasta" in Zebra Fry Pan.

Raffles will be held after each cooking demonstration where with Zebra products as prizes.

Zebra is a leading cookware brand in Thailand. It carries tableware, catering equipment, pots and pans, commercial and camping stoves, and kitchen tools, among others.

TENDER steamed chicken with ginger sauce

Zebra Steel Cookware products are available in leading department stores in the Philippines.

CHEF and food consultant Ashfel Cruz in action

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What a ride it's been!

across town). The recipes are from the most famous restaurants in the world that serve authentic Mexican and Latin American food. Many of the recipes are for desserts. Food crisp to taste, this luxury special home is so complete. It has tips, history and wedding anniversary. An excellent resource book for all fans, for fiesta organizers, style managers, teachers and family friends, as well as for any cookbook collector! Call Botanical Readers at 6374744.

CUCINA liquid soap

White and embossed

I'm opening a restaurant [word illegible] and embossed with business name. Would you happen to know a supplier?

REYNAMOUND
Inglebrook, Bohol

Sure do. Nicolasa, Linda has Bohol with [illegible] 09227 or Nicole, Iris 2828331/ 2819599. (Thanks I for the numbers!)

More tips

How do you avoid fruits like bananas, pears, apples and avocados from discoloring?

MAITE

I suggest you cool and dry them just before serving. Remember, you can squeeze out a bit of lemon juice onto the fruit surfaces to dress with cling wrap. Dissipate pressure to fruit from oxidizing.

I love to cook but hate the smell it leaves on my hands. Should all kinds of soaps but anything works.

W. KNADO

Guess from world wonders! I love the reminder and also all. Oh, and their coffee-cradle make your kitchen smell so good even while cooking! Available in Peter & Parsons, Greenbelt 3. (Thanks, Victoria, for the discovery.)

For [illegible] and comments text 09.17.4999888.

LIFESTYLE

08·06·05 NBC lost, the last 10AM Artists' Fair A Superfiesta organized by KC Concepcion OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

PDI FAMILY RECIPE CONTEST

Winners' circle

THE WINNING recipes in the PDI Family Recipe Contest this week were first cooked in the kitchens of Pampanga in the north, Albay in the south and Antique, which is even farther south.

The winner of P5,000 worth of SM Supermarket gift checks is John S. Lansang, who has had the good fortune of having a father who comes from a Pampanga town where the monthly cook, Quilô is a traditional Kapampangan meat dish.

The winners of an Imarflex gift, Remelita S. Bongajon, is a reader from Ilaya, Cavite. She submitted a recipe for Tilmok, which she claims to be a delicious and very affordable enjoyable dish unique to Tabaco City, Albay.

And, finally, the winner of a cornucopia is a class of her chefs at the Regge Aquino School of Culinary Arts in Sta. Mesa A. Gonzaga, whose family trained their recipes instances into a standard, dessert-named called Dulce de Leonelo.

Winners should claim their prizes from Hotel Intrigue of the marketing department on the PDI office on 1000 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City.

Readers are reminded that their entry must be a Filipino dish that has been cooked and served in their families through the years. It should be a dish that mostly features locally grown and locally produced ingredients and highlights traditional local cooking techniques. The recipes they submit must not have been previously published or entered in any other contest.

Share your family recipes

WIN P5,000 worth of SM Supermarket gift checks, a gift from Imarflex or a class of choice at the Reggie Aquino School of Culinary Arts. Send in your favorite family recipe, along with a photo and a brief essay telling us: (1) who in your family first cooked and served the recipe; (2) how many generations have cooked it; (3) when it is usually cooked and served; and (4) why it is special to the family. Include your name, address, daytime telephone number and e-mail address, if any.

Entries should be mailed or hand-delivered to PDI Family Recipe Contest, c/o Lifestyle, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1098 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City 1200, or e-mailed to recipes@inquirer.com.ph. Photo attachment to e-mailed entries must be in jpeg format. For contest details, e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph.

QUILÔ

Sizzling meat dish from Pampanga

By John S. Lansang

QUILÔ (accent on the second syllable) is a traditional Kapampangan meat recipe that's a favorite in our family. The word takes off from the Tagalog follow or the Visayan kirihaw—fish or meat recipes that are usually prepared and served uncooked. Quilô is different in that it is cooked very quickly over high heat.

I picked up this traditional Kapampangan recipe from my father, whose I memory learned it from his folks in Sta. Rita, Pampanga, where the monthly sale sees the cooking Chows during holiday 22 town fiesta.

Sta. Rita is known as the only town in the Philippines that produces durian (a type of pampiq) which, at P1,000 per panita (approx. 2 kilos), is probably the most expensive and most delicious one in the world. Our town is also renowned for its delicacies like brown de sampe, sans rival, sanquianes, etc.

Quilô is prepared using either pork or beef. Ground chicken breast or pork meat may also be used. Quilô can be served as ulam by itself. It's also great as pulutan or appetizer. Sibog kalaqui may be added to give it more kick.

The name culinarian/historian Quilô makes it a dish that is described as "mayamig ay hindi nakakasawa," much like singang. It is easy fun and simple to prepare — literally a 10 minute meal.

Quilô

½ k ground pork (pigue with little fat, ground meat)
4 tbsp calamansi juice (about 15 pcs, big)
1 tsp salt only
½ tsp black pepper corn, freshly ground
2-3 pcs siling pangang or labuyo, sliced finely
2 pcs big red or white onions, sliced
1 pc whole garlic, peeled and minced
2 tbsp cooking oil

Extract juice of 15 pcs big calamansi, removing seeds, to make 4 tbsp juice.

Slice all into small pieces, the onions into small cubes. Set aside ½ of all and sliced onions for use as topping later.

Mix first six ingredients thoroughly in a bowl, set aside in refrigerator for 30 minutes.

Heat frying pan or wok, put 2 tbsp cooking oil.

When wok is very hot and oil has almost reached smoking point, throw in the minced garlic and brown lightly, followed immediately by the meat mixture. Mix should sizzle. Maintain high heat. Stir constantly for 2-3 minutes until the meat changes color and the meat juices come out. Do not overcook, do not allow the juices to dry up.

Put in a platter and garnish with the remaining chopped siling pangang and onions. Serve immediately.

Note: Ground chicken breast may be used also. Another variation is to use pork loins or skinless chicken breast sliced into thin strips. The calamansi juice and the oil may be increased according to taste.

PRE-HEAT oven to 450°F. Pour vegetable oil onto the baking pan. Take a pastry brush and brush oil evenly on the pan, coating the surface. Take a sheet of Glad Bake and line the baking pan, pressing slightly for the paper to stick to the bottom.

IN A LARGE bowl, combine green onion, cilantro, honey, hoisin sauce, soy sauce, catsup, oyster sauce, sesame oil and garlic. Whisk to blend.

PLACE pork in a Glad storage bag.

POUR the marinade. Press seal to lock and toss meat to coat. Marinate for one hour.

PLACE marinated pork on top of baking pan, arranging in a single layer.

BAKE for 10 to 15 minutes, turning occasionally and basting meat from time to time. If you have a two-deck oven, transfer baking dish to the upper rack and broil 6 inches away from heat, turning each piece of meat once. Broil the meat for about six minutes on each side or until caramelized. Meanwhile, strain the leftover marinade, put in a pan and cook until it is thick and sticky. After taking the meat out of the oven, spoon the extra sauce on top of pork and serve. Garnish with cilantro sprigs.

Oven-cooked pork barbecue

ASIAN Pork BBQ

Text by Margie Baga-Reyes
Photo by Roger Cuejio

HAD a busy day? Try this simple, basic pork barbecue recipe that does not need skewers and does not have to be cooked on a grill.

If you have a piece of pork belly (liempo) in the freezer, let it thaw as soon as you get home. Start preparing the marinade. Then put pork slices in the dish made and pour the whole thing in a together over.

Tidal Inclusi Asian Pork BBQ.

"Asian Pork BBQ is one tasty easy recipe to try at home," says chef Melanie Uy-Ai, who offers, along with partner Chefs Pru Chongchipo Sobut and Ana Lumpp Park, recreational cooking classes at Cooking Basics Culinary Studio.

"You don't need special ingredients for this recipe because it basically consists of pork and (marinade made from various sauces available at home)," Uy-Ai adds.

The marinade has a nice sweet, tangy taste that goes great with the pork. Sesame oil and hoisin and oyster sauces, in particular, give the marinade that extra boost. Sweetness. The marinade can also be prepared ahead of time.

STEP BY STEP

When buying pork, look for meat that is pale pink with a small amount of marbling and white (not yellow) fat. Darker pink meat means the animal is older. Pig is usually slaughtered at between 6-9 months for leaner, tender meat.

If you prefer the usual grilled barbecue, Uy-Ai suggests, "The liempo can be put in the refrigerator in the morning to marinate and be ready for the grill after work."

The Cooking Basics instructional culinary centers is at the G/F Unit 1, Victory Station, Ayala Triw, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Call: 771-0082 or e-mail cookingbasics@pacific.net.ph.

Ingredients

1 kg pork belly (liempo) sliced, 4 inches long
¼ c chopped green onions
¼ c chopped cilantro, stems
¼ c honey
3 tbsp hoisin sauce
2 tbsp tomato catsup
3 tbsp oyster sauce
2 tbsp sesame oil
4 cloves garlic, chopped
for garnishing:
1 cup cilantro leaves, stemmy
1 tsp vegetable oil for greasing

For suggestions, e-mail the author at rbaga@inquirer.com.ph

TSUKIJOK

Sealed with a zing from Albay

By Herminia B. Bongayan

ALL famous personalities from Tabaco City, Albay, adore Tsukiji and they will tell you that their visit to our hometown is not complete if they don't eat Tsukiji.

I inherited this recipe from my great grandmother, who was a well-known food vendor in our town in her time, not only because she skewered proper marination, but mostly because she had the said ears delicious and affordable. Tsukiji was one of her specialties.

This recipe is always a part of our family gathering, especially in the summer when almost all our family members come for vacation in our hometown. Sometimes, we even have to do rare reunions, one with all-day barbecue for the older folks and no other without it!) for the young ones.

Tsukiji

1 c young coconut, scraped finely
5 cloves garlic, chopped
1 pc onion, chopped
1 c cilantro paste (squeezed from grounded ¼ k small cilantro)
½ c fresh Bicolia leaves or fresh oregano juice (about 30 pcs bicolia leaves or 20 pcs oregano leaves; mince and squeeze the juice)
1 tsp salt to taste
8 pcs siling or tapsilan leaves
1 c coconut milk

Combine the first six ingredients, let stand.

Lay the the long leaves over a plate. Scoop 1 tbsp of the mixture and put at the center of the leaves. Slowly fold the leaves and wrap the mixture. Tie up the wrapped mixture to prevent from opening. Arrange in a casserole. Pour in coconut milk. Add a pinch of salt to taste. Let boil for about 30 mins, half covered. Serve hot or cold.

Sweet dried tomatoes from Antique

By Ma. Nieta S. Gonzaga

OUR family owned a small parcel of rice land in one of the barangays in Buenos Aires, Antique, and after the first cropping, we would usually plant tomatoes. Because Christmas harvest would sometimes be more than enough for family consumption, my grandmother preserved some tomatoes with sugar.

This sundried tomato recipe was passed on by my grandmother to my mother, who loved to cook it for her 10 children (eight boys and eight girls), of whom I'm the youngest.

I learned to cook Dulce de Kamatis a) age 10 so I used to help my mom oversee the cooked it. I love to cook this dessert and never a to my all nephews and nieces. Dulce de Kamatis is the family favorite dessert and most of us in the family know how to prepare it. It is a nutritious and delicious dessert for everybody and makes for a good all-occasion food gift.

Dulce de Kamatis or Candied Tomatoes

2 kg ripe tomatoes
1 kg sugar
2 tbsp finely chopped calamansi rind

Preparation:

1. Boil tomatoes for 10 minutes until tomatoes resisting ovary to peel off.
2. Dip inside in mud.
3. Remove the tomato skin. Individually cut tomatoes into halves to remove seeds.
4. Strain liquid, if any.
5. Dip cut tomatoes in sugar individually and let sugar be absorbed overnight.

Cooking procedure:

Combine chopped calamansi rind and unreserved tomatoes in a pan and cook over moderate heat, stirring often to a while to avoid scorching, until the sugar caramelized.

Remove the tomatoes and place in a baking pan, tray or bilao.

Dry the tomatoes under the heat of the sun.

When dried, seal in sterilized jars, or wrap each piece of tomato in wax paper or cellophane with frills on both ends. Candied tomatoes may be stored up to six months, even longer.

DULCE de Kamatis